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OF
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A
SEAMAN.

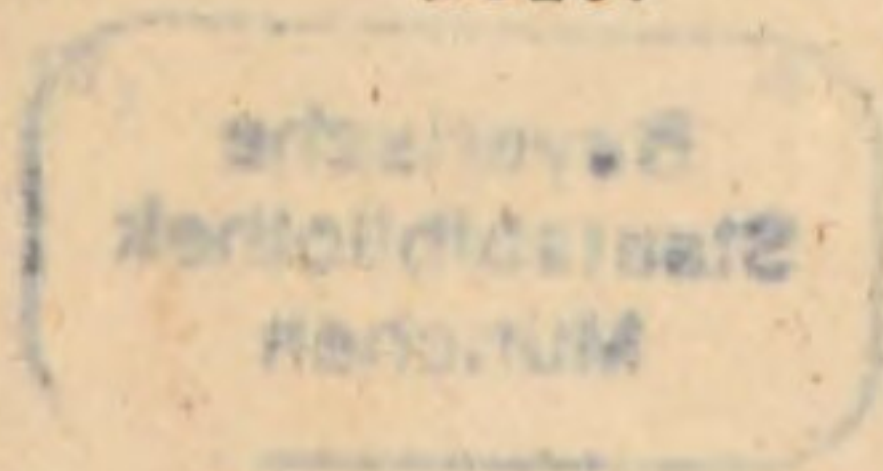
IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

LONDON:

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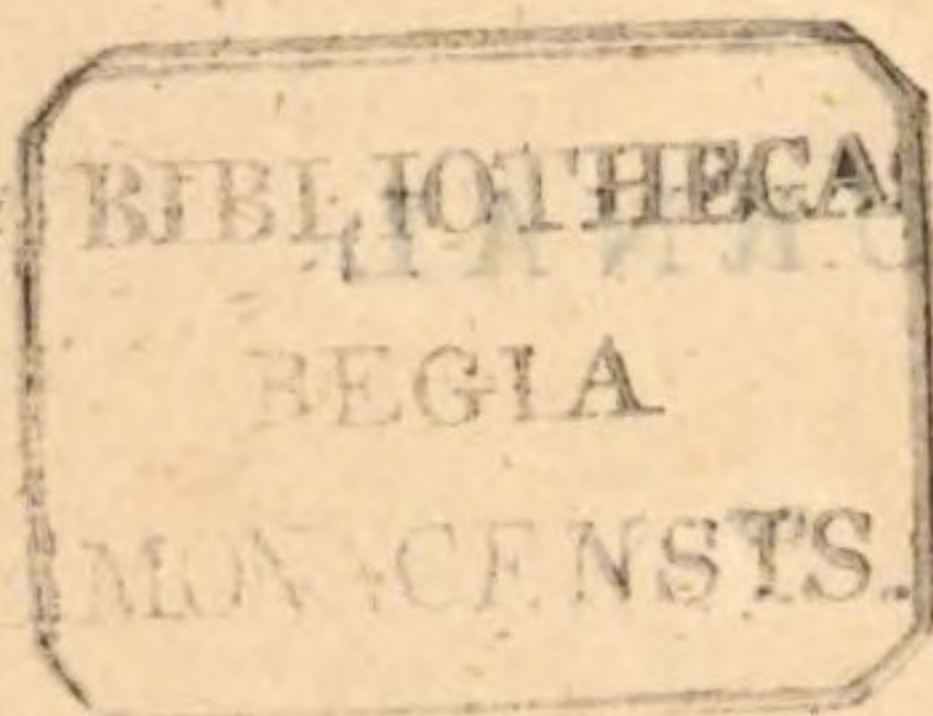
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ALFRED RUSSELL

SEAMAN

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THE
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CHAP. XXXI.

NINETEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

Nothing remarkable happened from the time the Indians left us, which was about the latter end of March; but some few days after their departure, Harry told me that he had got a great secret from Soroteet to tell me.

“What may that be?” said I.

He told me that Gatta-loon had informed Soroteet when last here, that we were known to be on this coast by the Spa-

niards. I began to be much alarmed, and immediately called Bell. I then desired Harry to repeat all he had heard or knew, whether good or bad, for I must confess it had much discomposed me ; but, on reflection, knowing it to be a thing that must one day happen, I began to be more calm.

He said that Gatta-loon had told Soro-teet the affair, because he knew he could neither speak Spanish or English, and therefore it could not well be divulged to me whilst they were with us, lest we should take it ill, and attribute the discovery to their treachery ; they, however, desired we would not entertain so bad a thought of them. Their friends who were dead had pledged their hearts with us, and we should find them equally faithful on all occasions. They had no knowledge by what means we had been discovered, but that a couple of Spaniards from Maracaibo had lately been among them, and inquired if

there were not two Englishmen married among their people, and settled somewhere along the shore, to the northward. Finding we were known to be there, they thought it wrong to deny they had some knowledge of us, and confessed they knew a poor man who told them he had been driven on that shore in a boat alone ; that I had been there many long moons before they had found me out ; and mentioned the circumstance, that one of their canoes had been driven on shore where I resided ; that I had given every assistance in my power to the Indians in distress, and by means of this communication I had obtained an Indian wife. That I was a good man, and liked to live there with my family, but that I would have endeavoured to find out the Spaniards, had I not been fearful they would have sent me to the mines, as an enemy of their nation. But that I was so far from being an enemy to mankind, or to

them, that I had since my landing there, given my best assistance to two or three distressed Spanish vessels ; and that they had often heard me say, that if I was once assured they would do me no injury, I should be content to die there in peace. In regard to the man who lived with me, he had been cast away long since, and came among them, but hearing of me, had travelled to find me out, and had got a wife of their nation. That we lived by fishing, and were very harmless and inoffensive men.

“ Well,” said one of them, who was an old man, and whose name was Perez, “ when you see them again, you may inform them that they may make themselves perfectly easy on our accounts ; their condition is by no means to be envied, and we shall never molest them. If they are content to be voluntary anchorites, they are not likely to be disturbed. I suppose they are not good catholics.”

They told him we were ; that we prayed to the book and cross often. To this he answered, " star bon." They inquired how far it was from where they lived? They said about seven days distance ; and here the conversation respecting us finished.

I said we felt grateful in our hearts for their good conduct ; but how the Spaniards came by the knowledge of us we could not divine, except it was from our good friends the fair traders, who might have been wrecked near their settlement, or from old Organ's people. However it might be, we were now made quite easy in our minds, knowing the disposition of the Spaniards towards us, by the conversation which had passed, that they would not give themselves the trouble to seek us, as we were of no consequence to them, either for good or ill.

One day Nunez and Harry came in from fishing ; they brought home in the canoe

from the Bird Key, a part of some animal substance, in long round shapes of a brown hue, exceeding smooth, and of a consistency like soft gristle. I asked Harry what it was? and he gave me the following account, which I thought odd enough. The old man continued chattering to Bell in Spanish the whole time. Harry began thus: He said he got out of the canoe, and was wading among the rocks after one of those kind of fish called a cuckold; he had his maschut in his hand; all of a sudden he felt something clasp him round his leg, clinging very fast. On looking down he saw a monstrous lancksa, as he called it. He directly desired Nunez to come to his assistance, who, by cutting and dividing it with his knife and maschut together, got him free, and that he had brought home a part of it to shew me. He said he would roast and eat it, which he did. The description he

gave of this animal is perfectly romantic to me. However, as I have not seen it myself, I must beg the reader to be satisfied with Mr Harry's account of it ; which is as follows.

He says they are not very frequent, especially of this large sort ; but there are three kinds of less magnitude ; that they are always found adhering to the side of a rock, or large stone, in some place where there may be an eddy, or current of water ; that they expand forth several arms, which are continually playing about in the water ; and that in the end of each of these is a kind of mouth, with which it catches all kinds of little live things, such as marine insects, &c. ; that these arms convey what they have so taken into one great mouth it has in the centre of its body ; that it has no eyes, nor can it remove from the place where it is fixed ; but should any part of it be torn, or cut away, the part so torn or

separated will soon fix itself to some other place, and become a new and perfect lancksa, and act exactly in all things as that from which it was separated. They lay hold of every thing they can reach, and if the object be too large for them to take in, they will then suck the substance out of it, and let the husk or skin drop. This account I must confess appeared very wonderful to me. I give it exactly as I heard it from his mouth, and must leave it to the learned to determine to what class this being may belong, and whether it may not be that called the polypus.

Now I am on this subject, I must mention another kind, which in my opinion belongs to the same tribe of marine animals. We first saw them when Somer and I were once to the westward, in a place among rocks, and ever under water. Through several holes in the side of those rocks about four feet down, seemed to grow

small tufts of flowers, somewhat resembling in shape our polyanthus, but of a pale rose colour, now and then tinged with yellow; but on my running down a paddle to shove a bunch of them off, they would instantaneously retire into the rock. This first excited our attention; and finding that by repeated trials it evaded all our art, Somer undertook to detach one of them, which projected forth from an angular corner, with an axe; and to accomplish this he got out of the canoe, and knocked the piece off, which he put into my hand, and entered the canoe again; then seating himself, began to beat it to pieces, and in a small cell we found a substance of a thin membranous sort; but the parts which had expanded like so many flowers, had now lost their form. The whole was contracted, and as it were shapeless. Yet there seemed to be a small palpitation left, which shewed there was life in it. Many of those

we had caused to retire, were now expanded again in full beauty; but on offering to touch them, they incontinently withdrew themselves as before. This natural curiosity would have escaped my memory, had not this adventure of Harry's revived the impression of it.

I shall here beg leave to mention some other circumstances of an extraordinary nature, which have passed under my observation at different times. There is a kind of long thin grass growing in these regions, which if you wave your hand, or even a small switch over it, will instantly, as if animated, fall down flat, though the hand or switch has not approached within a foot of it. There is also a species of yam, which when you find it spring above ground, if you fix a stick in any point of direction, within the distance of three feet, will, in a short time, find its way to it; and if you remove the stick, a short time before it has

reached it, and fix it in any other direction, it will find its way round any impediment, and when it has met, begin to climb up it.

There is likewise to be found on the sea beach a sort of vine, with a red stem about the thickness of a goose quill, with small leaves growing laterally, and at about the distance of two feet between each pair ; but what makes it remarkable is, when it has extended its stems as from one centre like a star, to the distance of about ten or twelve feet, it there takes root in the sand, and begins to shoot out branches as from a new centre, so that in some places the shore will be covered with them for fifty yards together ; and so strongly do these red tendrils hold in the sand, that on taking hold of one of them, you shall find them tough or turgid, like any ship's stem fast. There are some kinds of flowers also, which have the quality of displaying their bloom after

the sun is set, and keep in blossom the whole night, and when day comes on they all close again. On the contrary, others open with the rising sun, and close again when it sets.

The Indians have an idea that there is a particular sort of deer, that have ears in their feet, by which means they know that an enemy is approaching, even at a mile's distance, and further. When walking in the woods with Harry, he picked up the fore-leg bone of one of them, and shewed me a groove in the skin part, proceeding from the parting of the hoof, which he told me was the channel, or bed of the nerve that enabled them to hear at so great a distance. This I consider an imagination only; but that there does exist a species of deer that have the sense of hearing in greater perfection than others, may I think be admitted, from Harry's observation.

There grows here a small tree, which bears a large fruit shaped something like a bell pear, but much larger, and flat on one side. It is full of soft thorny points, and of a dark green, inclining to purple towards the large end, which is of a full purple. Its pulp is white, spongy, and very full of juice, with many purple seeds within it. Its leaves are large. There is a small bird that feeds on the seeds of it, about the size of our English green-finch, and of that kind of green. Its bill resembles the parrot, and as the fruit varies from the green to the purple, so the bird changes its hue exactly, from its tail to the neck and head, which terminates in the purple; so that when the bird is actually on the limbs or fruit, you can hardly distinguish it, unless it moves or shifts its place.

From the contemplation of these wonders of nature, the mind naturally ascends with grateful reverence to the divine

framer of them. "O Lord! How manifold are thy works? In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches; so is the great and wide sea also."

CHAP. XXXII.

ABOUT the 10th day of August Harry's wife presented him with a daughter, and they gave her the name of Elizabeth, or Betty, in compliment to my wife. Harry observed on this occasion that Soroteet had not hitherto been re-named, according to our custom when any Indian joined our family. I turned to my friend Bell, and desired him to undertake the office of god-father, and give him one; and he thought proper to call him Rory, or Roderick. From this time we heard scarcely any other sound, for two or three days from Harry,

Owen, and the other children, than Rory ! Rory ! Rory ! so much would any simple novelty occupy their minds, which had never been enlarged by the hurry and varieties of the great world.

Harry would sometimes amuse himself by teaching the boys to swim, by taking them on his back in the lagoon. It happened one day as he and Rory were at their sport with the children, while Bell, Nunez, and myself, were looking on with our pipes in our mouths, Nunez suddenly called out “ un tiberoon,” or a shark. This soon drove them from the water, with not a little surprise, as we had never seen one so far up before. The Indians soon got bait and took her. This shark was not above six feet long, yet she had eight young ones, which would not leave her ; so they were all taken ; and though they were not more than eight or nine inches in length, yet were so strong, that it was with

great difficulty a man could hold one of them in his hand with a strong gripe. It is well known the shark brings forth her young after the manner of quadrupeds; but it is a great mistake in those who assert that on any sudden danger she takes them into her mouth, or down her throat. The very contrary is the case; for on any surprise they all secrete themselves in the womb; and of this we had ocular demonstration, both now and at various other times.

The last time the Indians were here they brought with them a few pods of some exceeding large beans, of a full brown colour, having but two on each pod. These beans or kernels are about the size of a dollar, and of an excellent virtue for all complaints of the bowels, as they report. The mode of using them is to scrape a part of the kernel into warm water, or to stew them; and so great is their efficacy, that

the quantity of three or four grains will relieve the most racking cholic immediately. This we have ourselves experienced. They say it has likewise the power of expelling poison. I ordered a few of them to be planted, that we might not be without so easy and effectual a remedy.

One day Harry and Rory brought home with them a hawk's-bill tortoise, weighing about thirty pounds; of whose shell our artificers in Europe make great use in divers kinds of ornaments. This kind of tortoise is not very agreeable to the taste. Of this animal I have seen at least seven sorts, viz.

1. The loggerhead tortoise. This kind is most frequent on our coast; and are some of them so large as to weigh four hundred weight. They have a very round back, and are rather longer in proportion than the other kinds; but there is no beauty in the shell.

2. The trunk tortoise is so called, I presume, from their resemblance to an old coffer or trunk, being ridged. They grow large and rank, and are not agreeable to the taste.

3. The hawk's-bill; from the resemblance of its beak to that of a hawk.

4. The green tortoise. These are most coveted, and their flesh exceeds all the others in flavour. I have seen some of them at least three hundred weight.

5. There is another kind that never go into the sea, but frequent ponds and muddy places. They have a most hideous appearance to strangers. I have seen them above fifty pounds weight. When attacked they are very fierce, and make a hissing noise. If they once fix their teeth, they seldom quit their hold without bringing off the piece. They are black, rough, and have bright eyes, with circles of red, which give them a very formidable appearance. Yet

the flesh of these animals is esteemed a great delicacy, being rich and palatable.

6. Another sort is of a diminutive size, and frequent ponds also. They are of no estimation except for the beauty of their back shell, which is generally yellow, bordered with black ; or olive, bordered either with yellow or red.

7. There is another kind that never frequent the water, but keep up in the woods, and never grow to any size of more than three or four pounds weight. At a certain season of the year, they retire below the surface of the earth, where they remain for the space of three months. All the several kinds lay eggs ; and they have the peculiar property of retaining life for many hours after the head is separated from the body.

Upon this subject I have really been witness to such facts as I am fearful of relating, lest my veracity may be called in

question. One circumstance I will give. I remember the head of one of the loggerhead tortoises was cut off about ten in the morning, and thrown away by the head of the lagoon; yet poor Eva (now dead and gone) happened to take it up on the next day in the evening; and as she wantonly placed her finger within the mouth, it closed at once, and bit her so hard, that she was obliged to run and call out for assistance, nor was she relieved till Harry thrust a sharp instrument through the brain.

We had not explored our back territories since the accident of the fire. Bell therefore proposed that he and Harry should make an excursion; for which purpose they furnished themselves with arms, ammunition, and provisions. They entered the woods, or rather what had been the woods, early in the morning. They took three dogs with them, and did not return till about six in the evening. To my

great surprise, they brought home with them two small black pigs; but had lost one of the dogs. They related the following story.

They said on their first setting out they found all the underwood burnt for the distance of a mile or more. Harry was the pilot, and steered his course towards the place where we found those huge bones. They then mounted the bank, and proceeded south about half a mile, when they came to a wood of fine tall trees, where they sat down and refreshed themselves. At a small distance from this, they came to a large savannah, which lay low, with here and there a single tree growing. On their entering the savannah, they saw some black creatures running swiftly through the grass. They kept on their course directly for a large tree, at the distance of about two hundred yards. As they drew near the tree, Bell plainly discovered some of the

same animals. He took good aim, and shot one so as to cripple it. On their coming up, to their surprise, they found it to be a young pig, of about seven weeks old as he judged. No sooner did he take hold of it, than it began to cry lustily. Soon after which he plainly heard the grunting or growling of hogs, as when they are enraged, and a great rushing noise through the grass. On which Harry immediately ascended the tree, and desired Bell to follow his example ; but before he could get his arms around it, a huge brown boar came furiously towards him. What to do he could not at first determine, but slipped on the other side of the tree, and began to load his piece as fast as he possibly could, keeping his eye stedfastly on the beast, and dodging round. Now and then the boar would make directly at him, champing his long tusks, with his mouth all in a white

foam. In this dreadful situation he was just making ready to fire at him, when Harry discharged his piece from the tree, and took him directly in the ear, which at once laid him motionless, and delivered poor Bell from his perilous condition. Harry then came down, loaded afresh, and desired Bell to follow him, as he had perceived others from the tree. They soon came in view of the sow with several young ones. They both fired on them, and Bell killed one. The old sow and the rest took away through the grass with great expedition. They declined the pursuit, and returned to the tree to take a survey of the old signior. Bell said he had never before seen one of such magnitude. His tusks were at least eight inches in length, and about the head and shoulders he was of monstrous thickness. This animal, in his fury, let out the entrails of one of the dogs

in a moment, by whose death perhaps the life of Bell was saved, as it gave him time to evade his attack.

The next day we sent off Harry and Rory to bring home a part of the boar, together with his tusks, but they returned with the tusks only, as the carcase had been almost entirely devoured by the tigers, or by some of their own species, which circumstance the Indians say is by no means uncommon. They likewise relate, that when a wild boar is wounded, if he can get off, he seeks out a particular kind of tree, and fretting its bark with his teeth and tusks, he causes the sap to flow, with which he anoints his wound, by rubbing against it, and by this means he recovers. They believed they were very numerous in this quarter by the dung they saw, and that they found food in the savannah by rooting up the ground, and eating a kind of long nut which fell from the tall trees, some-

what resembling our acorn. What could be the cause I know not, but during the whole time of my residence at this place, I had never seen one of those animals even in the neighbourhood; but perhaps the food they are most fond of grows in parts more remote from the shore. Bell said he believed the boar did not weigh less than two hundred weight. The two young ones, we barbacued, and we found them delicious.

The next piece of business we went upon, was to make masts and sails for our new canoes. As to their sails, we were obliged to be sparing, having no great stock of that article by us. As we had not been once out in them, since the Indians had left them with us, we determined to make a small voyage in them to the north eastward. Accordingly, Bell and I, with Owen, one morning put out of the lagoon in one of them, to which Bell gave the name of the Gannet, and the other, which I called

the Komaloot, was manned by Nunez and Rory. We stood away for the old plantation; where I visited the grounds I had not seen for a long time, except from the shore, when we brought away the goods we purchased of the Killicranky man. I went into my old cave, from thence to the part I had set fire to so long ago. It was now become, as it were, a new forest of young saplings and bushes. The sight of these scenes recalled to my remembrance the incident of my first landing on this shore. I visited the cave as my early asylum, with a grateful and fond affection; and with sensations somewhat similar to those which accompany us to places where we have passed our years of childhood,—each step was interesting, and every object brought with it the remembrance of some event which made it dear to me.

As we were on the return, Bell called to me to come to him. I did, and he

shewed me one of the most noble calabash trees I ever beheld. As it is a tree of a peculiar growth, I will endeavour to describe it. In height and size, it resembles our codling tree, but the limbs, or rather the superior branches, grow horizontally from the tree, very straight, and have but few small leaves, which grow in pairs, opposite to each other, with a pair at the extremity of each bow or branch. Its fruit is somewhat more remarkable; it grows to the magnitude of a small bomb shell, is of a pale green, and full of snow-white pith; you will see one of them protrude from the very extremity of a limb, so that by means of its great weight the bough shall bend down to the ground. On another limb, they may be seen to push from the side, sometimes in a small crevice between two limbs, by which means they become distorted, being cramped in their growth; but whatever obstruction they may meet with, it

will not diminish them in quantity, as they will push their protuberances wherever they find room; and sometimes you shall see them not above a foot from the root of the tree. The stem of this fruit is so short and slender, that to a stranger they appear fungus excrescences, rather than fruit.

After we had been here about an hour, and I had shewn my two friends all about my first habitation, we took boat again, and proceeded to Tower's Field, where landing, we made our dinner, after which Bell took his gun, and went with Owen and Rory, who was but lately acquainted with fire arms. While they were gone, I took Nunez to shew him the large stone which I had discovered among the woods. He supposed it to have been erected by Columbus, or some of the first adventurers, as a memorial of their landing here. I bid him consider that it required the force and joint labour of more than one thousand

men to move such a mass of rock. However, he still was of the same opinion, adding, that the natives might have assisted, as providence had thought fit to lead them to this shore for the purpose of preaching the gospel among the savages. As the old man seemed to be thoroughly persuaded that he was right in this conjecture, I was unwilling to disturb him by any remonstrance to the contrary. He was at no time contentious, and it gave me some pleasure to yield to an opinion from which he derived so much satisfaction.

When we got back to the water side, we observed our people run backward and forward often, and then fire, on a part of the beach near Whale Point. We could not conceive the meaning of this. In about an hour they returned, and Bell told us they had surprised three seals asleep, between some rocks, and that Owen had shot one of them with my piece, but as he had but

slightly wounded it, the animal had escaped from them, notwithstanding they had endeavoured to intercept him before he reached the sea, and pelted him with stones.

“Ay,” said Nunez, “if you had but given him a small stroke over the nose with the butt end of your piece, you would soon have finished him.”

We now began to think it time to return, and put off accordingly; but as I was just stepping into the canoe, I picked up a small kind of cockle shell of a fine crimson colour, from the bottom of which, and on the inside, grew up a beautiful branch of white coral, of a texture smooth as glass, and resembling the horns of a stag; in length about four inches; at the extreme points were small studs, resembling so many stars of a bright blue.

“This,” said I to Bell, “is a great curiosity indeed, and would in Europe bring a great price.” I have it still by me, with

a great variety of other curious articles, but whether or not they may ever reach my own country, is beyond even my conjecture. We got home safe, without any thing more occurring worth notice, and found all well.

We had not been home long before I observed Harry strutting about at a distance, with an air of great importance, dressed in a shirt of mine, my old tiger jacket, a beaver hat, and maschut by his side, affecting the air and manner of a Spaniard. The women were all the time tittering and laughing at him. I pointed him out to Bell, and then called him to come to me, which he did slowly, and with dignity. Bell held his hand out to him; he retreated a few paces, then placing his hand on his hips, with one foot advanced, said, "me grande cavalero." Nunez burst into laughter.

"Pray, Mr Harry," said I, "what is the meaning of all this?"

“Ha!” he replied, “me be rich man as well as yourself now, and will buy me a watch talker too, when Killicranky comes here again.” He now shewed his two hands full of doubloons, which greatly surprised us.

“Where in the name of wonder did you get those!” said I.

“From dead man’s hole,” he replied, all along side.”

“How can that be? I thought we had sufficiently examined that place long ago.”

“Come see,” said he; and away we went. He ran before us, and when he came to the place held up a large cup, which, when Bell took it into his hands, contained about twenty more doubloons. On scraping the vessel, we found it to be pure gold, weighing about twenty or twenty two ounces. The fact was, that the late heavy rains had washed off the soil, and as he chanced to be there, picking a few limes,

he discovered the brim of the cup rising above the side of the old hole, and got it out with ease a few hours before our return.

“ Well, Don Henriquez,” said I, “ you have the weather gage of us in this discovery, I must confess ; and pray what do you intend to make of your riches ?”

He said, affecting to speak after our manner on several occasions, “ what is mine is yours, my good friends.”

We returned him our thanks for his generous confidence, and placed the prize in our treasury, agreeably to his desire.

Soon after this we discovered a sail lying to, right off our place. This was about the 19th of March ; and in the morning I got my glass, and saw she was a large schooner. Bell proposed to speak her. I objected, as she was at least two leagues out ; “ yet,” said I, “ if you are inclined to adventure, you and Nunez may take Har-

ry with you, and go out in the yawl and shew yourselves. We know the Spaniards are acquainted with our residence in this place, therefore we need be under no great apprehensions on that account; the wind you see is favourable."

Upon this they soon made up their minds, and off they went, with a few dollars, a parcel of yams, &c. They had not got far out in the bay, when I perceived a white jack hoisted, and the schooner stood for them. I knew if they continued on that tack long they would certainly run on a ledge of rocks. In a short time they hove to again, and lay by for the boat, which was very soon along side. Well, thought I, this may be another fair trader; we shall see what will come of it. I kept on the hill constantly, until they had been on board more than an hour, when I saw them put off with another boat in company. This I was not much pleased with; however my

mind was soon at rest, as I saw them part company, and row away for the point of Long Key, in order, as I supposed, to get water. Bell and his companions soon arrived. He told me it was a guarda costa, of ten guns, from Carthagená, and that the crew were a strange medley of mortals, composed of all the various dips, or casts, from the Spaniard down to the Indian and Negro. What we took for the white flag was nothing more than the ragged staves, in form of St. Andrew's cross; that the commander's name was Zayas; and that he found among them an old foul loon, his countryman, one Watty M'Clintock, who had turned papist, and had been with them from the time of Admiral Vernon's being on the coast, from whose fleet he had deserted. He said, that having observed in M'Clintock's hand exactly such a knife as we had purchased from the fair traders, he interrogated him, by what means he had obtain-

ed it? He answered somewhat archly, that he had found it before it was lost, on a Maroon key some months ago; that their people had more of them.

Bell said, "they are English; has any vessel of that nation been cast away lately?"

"No," said he, "not that I know of; but you must understand there are several vessels from the north that belong to the English colonies, and by some fatality or other are driven from their way, and as they know we are out on the watch, they leave now and then a few trifles on the keys or other places, that they may not be disturbed while they take a little fresh water or so."

I soon began to comprehend the meaning of this, and said no more on the subject. I asked Bell if they had any thing on board that might be useful to us?

"Not a thing," said he, "they look more like a gang of thieves than any thing else.

The only article I could obtain, was a good whetstone or two, of the lieutenant, in return for a few yams and potatoes."

Soon after this we saw them stretching out to seaward, and before night lost sight of them, which ended this adventure.

About this time Bell and Nunez contrived a kind of board to amuse themselves at a game called draughts, at which they would sit for hours, with segars in their mouths, without speaking a word, but wholly intent on the game. I was frequently invited to join them in this amusement, but it was too silent and sedentary for the activity of my disposition.

Harry in his different excursions often brought me home natural curiosities, which he knew would please me. A few days after the departure of the guarda costa, he brought me a very curious marine plant growing to a large stone of about ten pounds weight. It was as black as jet, and so hard that a knife

would hardly penetrate it. It was in height about the size of a cabbage. It was extremely curious to observe the multitude of its small fibres, or twigs, as minute and slender as horse hair, and shining much like it. There was not the least appearance of any thing like leaves. Its growth was somewhat in the form of a cypress tree, with its root so firmly connected with the stone, that the eye could not discover where it was joined to it. He frequently brought me sponges and sea fans or feathers, of great variety of colours; the sponges often in the forms of cups, tubes, roses, &c.

I must not omit to mention in this place a tree of coral now hanging over the entrance of our cave. This curious production came up with our killick, as we were fishing. It is white as snow, full of small stars, and branching forth like the horns of a stag or elk. It is of so solid a texture,

that when struck it sounds like a bell. Towards the root it is as thick as the small of a man's leg, and in height five feet and upwards, and weighs at least fifty pounds.

The remora, or sucking fish, has been so often described that I need not mention it, only to note, that we have the skin of one of those singular fish, which measures at least three feet.

We have a bird here about the size of our starling, black, grey, and white. This sweet creature has obtained from us the name of the charmer. Its daily practice is to repair every morning at sun rise to the highest branch of some dead tree, and there hold forth its melody for the space of an hour. This song is constantly repeated in the evening, when that blessed luminary is sinking in the west. Its notes are so loud and various, that we hear it with continu-

ed delight that never cloy. We are so charmed with this bird that its life is held sacred, and it is never disturbed or molested by any of my family.

We have another bird much of the same colour and size, but with a somewhat larger head. It is so inveterate an enemy to the eagle, that whenever the latter is seen to ascend, it will at once mount after it, and continues to worry it in such a manner, by beating it on the head, that the eagle is obliged to escape from it by leaving the quarter. This bird we call the little hero.

It is extremely curious to observe what pains the eagle takes to avoid it, now mounting aloft, then darting with the greatest rapidity towards the earth; but the little hero still keeps close behind its head, and will not quit him. It is equally an enemy to the fish hawk and

other birds of prey. It will sit for hours on the upper branch of the tree on the look out, every now and then flying up perpendicularly, and then, if it discovers nothing, returns to the same branch.

CHAP. XXXIII.

TWENTIETH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

By this time Owen, Harry, and Rory, had been busy at the pirates' pit or reservoir, in the hopes of discovering more treasure, having extended the diameter of the hole to the breadth of ten feet at least ; but as yet their labours met with no success. Early one morning Rory came down the hill to me, as I was sitting within the cave, and said in his broken English, "no friends come over Long Key now ; long smoke fire make."

"What, is the Key vanished then in the night?" said I to him.

Finding I did not understand his meaning, he went out to Harry. I overheard him say that he saw people. This was said in the Indian tongue. I called Harry in, and desired to know what Rory had told him.

“He said,” replied Harry, “that there are people on the Key, with a great fire, and that they are not our friends.”

“Call the white men, then,” said I; and taking my glass, away I marched up the hill. My family were soon at my heels. When we were on the cliff, we perceived ten or twelve persons round a large fire, about a hundred yards from the old well, but could see neither canoe, boat, or vessel of any kind. That they were Indians we knew, as none appeared to have any covering on the head. Many conjectures were started, but no absolute certainty whether they were enemies or friends; but we were induced to consider them as the former, as

though, at so great a distance, yet by many of their actions they did not appear to Harry and Rory to be of their tribe.

“ Well,” “ said I, “ lads, are you willing to go out and speak with them?”

They drew back. Harry said, they might be some of the Sancoodas, and they would soon enough roast him if they caught him. At the word Sancoodas, old Nunez, lifting up his hands, said, “ le diabola per los Sancoodas ;” and desired that our fire might be put out, shewing great signs of fear.

“ Who are those you call Sancoodas ?” said I.

Nunez told me they were the same we call Moskeetos, the most inveterate enemies to all Spaniards, and he was certain if they came amongst us they would soon put him out of pain.

“ If that be the case,” I replied, “ it shall never be said we gave them an invi-

tation, and immediately ordered the fire to be extinguished. Neither Harry, Nunez, or any of the Indians would venture up the hill after this. Therefore it fell to Bell's lot and mine to keep the necessary look out. When we took the second observation, which was about noon, we saw them all busy at a dance, as we judged by their actions. About two hours after, they all retired behind the trees on the south side, and in a short time after we saw them all paddling away south in four canoes; and thus they left our territories, to the great joy of my family. Of what tribe they were, what brought them there, and whither they were bound, we could not conjecture. This happened about the last day of July.

I now hinted to Bell that it might be useful, if we were to make a kind of sketch or draught of our harbour, as we knew full well all the bearings and distances, by

long and frequent observation. About the middle of December, in a morning, as he and I were out in the bay, for the above purpose of making a chart of the islands and coast, I observed that our signal was out at home. This hurried us back, and we made at once for the lagoon. When we arrived, we were met at the landing place by Owen, who informed us, that four friends from overland were come to visit us, and that the women were all crying about the Spaniards. What to make of this we knew not, and hurried away to our habitation, where we found them all huddled together, as in consultation. We found they were old acquaintances, and saluted them in a most friendly manner; but my impatience was so great that I desired Harry would at once tell me the cause of this sad wailing, whatever it might be. The account he gave me was this; that Gaynosanto, one of the Indians, informed them, they were

sent off by the old men at home, to give us timely notice that some Spaniards had been to visit them about ten days past, and said they were ordered strictly to inquire among them concerning some English people who were settled somewhere on the coast, and had much money among them. On which account they were suspected to be pirates, and the commandant looked to them (the Indians) for information, as he had reason to think they were well acquainted with them and their place of residence.

I must confess I was not much surprised at this news, as it was what I had long expected ; but my friends Nunez and Bell were under the greatest apprehensions. I requested them to inform me by what means the Spaniards had discovered us, and if their people had acknowledged their connection with us. They said, when they found we were discovered they thought it would be wrong

not to confess their knowledge of us ; but that they were always true men to us, and did not know by what means the Spaniards had obtained this information. This was delivered in so plain and honest a manner, that I had no doubt of their fidelity ; and I judged, with reason, that the guarda costa must have been the sole cause. I now desired to know if the Spaniards had informed them when they intended to pay us a visit. They said in about two moons, as they learned from their old people ; and that they were ordered to do us good if we wanted assistance. I thanked them, and bid them inform our kind friends, on their return, that as I was conscious I had given offence to no one, I was resolved to stand upon my innocence, and not involve them in any difficulties in my defence. That I did not think any persons, particularly such as called themselves Christians, would be

barbarous enough to molest a man in my forlorn condition.

The Indians staid with us but two days, and then took their leave. We promised to send them intelligence by Harry and Rory, how matters went on with us, if we received the promised visit from the Spaniards, and if not, we would still contrive to acquaint them with our situation. We then parted with them—perhaps for ever!

Matters now began to wear a new face with us. My dwelling was no longer the residence of peaceful tranquillity. A general restlessness and confusion seemed to reign throughout. I was resolved to be firm and resolute, and to steer with my helm a-midships, relying on Providence which had hitherto protected me, knowing that a sparrow cannot fall without the knowledge and permission of God.

To add to my uneasiness, my friends Bell and Nunez are come to a resolution

not to await the arrival of the Spaniards but to remove to some distance, till they shall know the result of this intended visit, and to return to us, if they find things go on well ; but I fear I shall see poor Nunez no more, as he seems to fall off daily, and is now a very aged man.

I have been with Bell to see the place he has fixed on for his retreat. It is not more than half a mile back from our residence, near a small pond of water, and under a bank shaded with thick trees, where they have cleared a small square, to erect posts or uprights which they intend to thatch in the best manner they can, and to retire there with a few of our articles, till the enemy shall have entirely left our place. I have proposed likewise to convey our money and other valuables, with my Bible and my Journal, to this retreat ; as there are circumstances in the latter I would by no means wish them to be acquainted with.

We intend to contrive a box, and nail them up in it, then pay the outside with tar, to prevent the worms or ants from penetrating it, and by digging a small cell in the bank, at the back of the house, there to deposit them in safety.

Notwithstanding the fortitude with which I had supported myself for so many years, I must confess that at times all my resolution failed. I began to accuse myself of having spent my time unprofitably to mankind, by thus suffering myself to be shut up in this remote corner of the world, in a kind of voluntary exile. I recollected that the Dutchmen had invited me to leave this desolate place, so had old Organ. My remaining here was therefore a matter of choice. On the other hand, in cooler moments, when judgment and discretion bore sway, I considered the cruelty of deserting those who had every dear and tender claim to my assistance and protection ; and

to what purpose?—to plunge again into the vortex of the world; to be the sport of contending passions; to hazard my temporal health, and my eternal happiness. Here I had every enjoyment that a rational man could wish for. My wants were few, and those easily supplied. I had a happy family around me. I lived in patriarchal simplicity. I was lord of the domain, and my subjects paid me willing obedience. My authority was never questioned, because it was never exerted but for the general benefit; and thus my days passed in a happy and peaceful tranquillity, undisturbed by those anxious solitudes which attend a life of business or of pleasure in the great world. Upon the whole, if Heaven shall so permit, I prefer spending the remainder of my life in this blessed retreat, among those whom I love, and by whom I am beloved again with sincere and undisguised affection.

As the Spaniards have, in a degree, been informed of our riches, at least that we have money amongst us, this will be a powerful motive to their visiting our habitation. We have concluded, therefore, that it may be better to produce a part of our cash, as the surest means of preserving the rest, as they never can suspect our stock to be any thing like that which accident has thrown in our way. My son Owen is made acquainted with our intentions, and particularly of my resolution to deposit this my Journal in a safe and secret place, where it may neither be injured nor discovered. Should any accident happen to me, perhaps he may one day find means of conveying it to my native country, either by himself, or some other safe hand. I flatter myself the detail of my life, however barren of incident, will not be wholly uninteresting or useless. It may shew the world how necessary it is to place our chief

dependence on Providence, but to neglect no means of providing for our own safety and comfort. The first will teach us acquiescence and resignation to his will, in whatever situation we may be placed; the latter that it is our duty to exert ourselves with becoming fortitude, and not to expect the interposition of Heaven, when by human means we can extricate ourselves from the difficulties with which we are surrounded. In exhibiting the picture of my life in this distant and solitary region, it will be found that my time did not pass away altogether in shapeless idleness; that my mind was improved and purified in my retirement; and I bless God for the opportunity he has given me of correcting my wandering thoughts, and leading me to the contemplation of his divine perfections, by abstracting my attention from worldly or sensual objects; and thus converting what I considered as the severest misfortune that could

happen to me, to the greatest blessing. If Providence shall so order it, that I remain where I am unmolested, I shall continue my narrative as long as my strength and materials last.

My twentieth year has almost run out. The Spaniards have not yet made their appearance, nor for some time have we heard any thing of our friends the Indians, which we much wonder at, and have formed various conjectures on the occasion. My two friends have at length returned to live at my habitation as usual. Yet, as it suits their fancy, they now and then sleep at their new hut, and old Nunez frequently retired there to rest himself in the heat of the day, and returned in the evening. We little dreamed how soon this peaceful arrangement was to end. Yesterday, as he did not come back at the usual time, we began to be uneasy at his absence, and Bell went in search of him. He found him

in the hut lying on his left side, and supposing him to be asleep, endeavoured to awaken him, but he was quite dead. When he brought us this melancholy news, we were much affected. He had endeared himself to us by many kind offices, and a most affectionate regard and fidelity. My family gave signs of the most tender, though unavailing sorrow. I gave orders that the corpse should be watched during the night, and on the morrow prepared for the funeral.

CHAP. XXXIV.

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

I now entered upon my twenty-first year. We buried poor old Nunez in the grave among the rest of our departed friends, in as decent a manner as our situation and circumstances would admit. Bell and I now held a consultation, the result of which was, that it would be proper, in order to put an end to any further suspense, to send Harry and Rory on a visit to our old friends the Indians, to gain what intelligence they could respecting the Spaniards, and other matters. The next day we ac-

quainted them with our opinion, and they immediately gave into the scheme. I advised them by all means to go alone without their wives, as the motive of the present journey would urge them to use all the dispatch possible. They approved of this proposal, saying, they had full reliance on our care and tenderness towards their families during their absence. They set off the next day, properly equipped for their journey. We had given them the best advice in our power, as to the regulation of their conduct, and wished them to make all the dispatch possible.

About four days after they left us, we met with a sad disaster. In the morning Bell and Owen took their guns to go after some flamingos. As they went in a canoe, I desired them to stop in their return at the old plantation, and bring home with them some of the large calabashes, as our women wanted to use them. In about two

hours, I was very much alarmed with the sound of a conch, which, from the manner, I knew to be Bell's. We immediately ran down to the lagoon, and I stepped into the Indian canoe ; but I had not gone far, when I discovered our boat on the return with Bell only in it, paddling away with all expedition. Not seeing my son, I was fearful something very dreadful had happened. The moment he turned the point I hailed him. He did not answer, but continued to paddle still faster. When he came near, I discovered Owen lying on his back in the boat.

“ Good God !” said I, “ messmate, what is the matter ? Tell me at once ; I beseech you.”

“ Don't alarm yourself,” said he ; “ your son has met with a misfortune ; he has broken the small bone of his leg, but I hope all will be soon well again. All that we have to do now is to get him home as soon

as possible, and then see what we can best do to relieve him."

We soon got him to the landing place ; but how to transport him to our habitation was the question. I sounded a shell. The women came running down ; and when they heard of Owen's accident, they were all lamentation, and became for a time perfectly unmanageable ; but as all this confusion only increased our difficulties, I told them no time was to be lost ; and having brought them to their proper senses, I ordered them to bring from the kitchen a flat board. On this we laid him, poor fellow ! (who was all patience, though in a great agony) and carried him as easy as possible. We found it was the right leg, and about three inches above the ankle. It was swelled to a great degree. He bore the pain with a resolution much beyond our expectation. It was happy for us that we had a person of Bell's

judgment and skill. We therefore submitted the patient entirely to his direction. He set the leg with much dexterity ; and having swathed it up, had a contrivance to prevent its moving, so as to receive no further injury. We now began to inquire how this accident happened, and received the following account. As they were running along shore, Owen spied a monkey, and they put in to get a shot at it ; as he ran with his piece cocked in his hand, his leg unfortunately slipped into a kind of crab hole, and receiving a sudden jerk, it snapped at once. We fixed his resting place just within the front of our dwelling, and put a small awning over his head to shade him from the morning sun, so that here he sat in state as it were. I cannot omit, in this place, to express my gratitude to my friend Bell for his constant care and attention to him. He was anxious even to provide him with amusement, to

make him pass his time more contentedly, and as much as possible beguile him of his pain. He would often sit by him for hours together, playing on his flute, in order to divert him. In short I cannot say too much of his kindness. It was felt by us all ; but poor Owen's gratitude knew no bounds. He made every affectionate return in his power. He looked up to him as his friend, his benefactor, his preserver, his second father ; and my worthy friend was a sharer in the happiness which he thus distributed around him.

Our young men had been gone above a fortnight, when one evening as we were sitting together, relating former transactions, the night being fair and clear, on a sudden we heard such an explosion as terrified us greatly. At the same moment, my little child America cried, "look, look." Upon which we saw in the air a number of small globes of blue fire, as they

were vanishing one after the other. Bell said he had often seen such a meteor before ; but we had none of us heard so loud an explosion. I myself had seen them, but not accompanied by such a report. The effect it produced upon us was, that it sent us all to our dormitories without further ceremony.

As we retired to rest, my wife observed to me, that she did not like to see those fireballs at all. I asked her the reason. She said she was sure we should have much sickness among us soon. I laughed at her, bid her go to sleep and forget it.

“ No, no,” she said, “ all old men said so where she came from.”

The next morning, the first thing I saw was one of our dogs called Sleeper, which had gone with Harry and Rory, running down the hill. Soon after came the lads themselves, as we thought ; but as they drew nigh, I discovered that one was not

Rory, but an Indian, who was a stranger to us. I grew quite impatient, and hailed Harry, desiring him to inform me what news, and what was become of Rory? By this time all our family were collected, and as I found Harry did not seem willing to answer my question, I spoke to him again, called him brother Harry, and begged him to inform me concerning Rory, and why he was not with them? Upon this he came up to me, took me by the hand, and said, looking tenderly in my face, "I know you have a great heart; you will not cry like women, if I tell you poor Rory is dead behind with my people, and many more good friends too."

I begged him to be brief, and give me a true relation of all that had happened since his departure. I observed Rory's wife was absent, which I was glad of. He said they made their journey without any accident,

in four days and nights. On their first arrival they met a woman who told them all their people were sick of the flux, and many dying every day, amongst whom was Futatee, and several others who had been on visits to our place. That two days after their arrival Rory fell sick, and lived but three days; after which a few Indians came to him, and said they would take good care to bury our friend; but that he must return back again as soon as possible, lest he should die too. He said they had advised young Sappash to accompany him, and that when he came home, they desired he would tell their good friends, meaning us, that according to their custom, they had provided Sappash as a husband for Jessy at once, as they were all too sick to hear any complaints from women on that subject; and that as for the Spaniards they had heard nothing more of them concerning us.

When Harry had thus satisfied Bell and me as to all that had happened, I sent for Jessy. When she came, I desired her to attend particularly to what I was going to say to her. She said she would. I then told her that her people had thought proper to keep her husband among them, for great reasons of their own, and that they had sent this young man to be her husband in his stead. I thought proper to acquaint her with their resolution, and to wait her consent. She seemed much affected with what I told her, and quite incapable of answering. I judged upon the whole it might be better to be more explicit. Therefore, after some little preparation, I told her the Great One, whom she had heard me talk so much about, had been pleased to lay Soroteet in the ground; and as that young man, Sappash, was sent by her friends, out of their love to her and me, I hoped, for their sakes and mine, she would make up

her mind to oblige both. She moved off, without uttering a word, and went weeping to my wife, to whom she related what had passed, and expressed all her sorrows on account of poor Soroteet's death, for whom she had a very sincere affection, and her reluctance to any other connection, if it might be avoided. This my wife informed me of, and I instructed her to use all her influence to persuade her to comply with our wishes. Thus matters remained for a few days; when my wife told me that Jessy had desired her to signify to me, that she was ready to be ruled by me in every thing; but that she hoped Sappash would look at my wife and me, and learn to love her as her first husband did. This she assured me was said with many tears, and her compliance was given with a reserve and delicacy that raised her very high in the opinion of us all. The affair being brought to this issue, I sent for Harry,

and desired him to inform the young stranger of Jessy's consent, and my intention to celebrate the wedding on the morrow.

Harry was much concerned for poor Owen's misfortune, and was very anxious to know whether he would ever again walk upright as before. I told him I hoped he would, but that Bell, who was his doctor, could give the best account.

"Aye, aye," said Bell, "he'll be taking till his legs ere lang again."

On the following day the ceremony was performed as usual. We did every thing we could to throw an air of cheerfulness over the whole; but poor Jessy's melancholy was not to be diverted from its object. She endeavoured, to the utmost of her power, to conceal her anguish, to appear cheerful, but she smiled through her tears, and was really a most interesting ob-

ject, and excited the love and admiration of all.

The next day Harry requested to know what new name we should give to Jessy's husband. I told him Rory, as before. This pleased all, but particularly Jessy.

My wife desired me never to say Indians were fools again.

"Did I not tell you," said she, "that fire balls made sick for my people?"

I told her the accident of such an accomplishment proved nothing. She must believe no such foolish tokens, except that the meteor might shew the foul and unwholesome state of the air. There could be no connection between that and the sickness which had infected her people. She shook her head, and was not inclined to alter her opinion. I sincerely lamented the sore afflictions with which my Indian friends had been visited; but as those

events are in the hands of him who governs the issues of life and death, it is our duty to submit, and not to murmur. We may however hope for more favourable tidings from them soon.

Things went on in the usual way for a considerable time. My son began to walk with his crutches freely. Bell confessed to me, that, though he had shewn much dexterity and skill in setting Owen's leg, he was at that time very far from believing himself capable of such an operation, as he had never assisted but at one such before. However he had given his whole attention to it, and by care and good luck he had happily succeeded.

Soon after our poor children fell sick of the flux. This created a general alarm in our little community, as we feared it might be equally fatal with that which had deprived us of so many of our Indian friends. My wife was at her prognostics

again, and insisted that we should all die. This vexed me. I desired her to be silent, and keep her fears to herself, as she might otherwise, without intention, produce the event she feared, by increasing the apprehension of danger. She at once promised to obey me, as indeed she had been a tender, affectionate, and obedient wife, in every situation. In about a fortnight I had the pleasure to see them all recover, and gain strength daily.

Some time after this, Bell proposed an excursion by land to the northward, if agreeable to me. I told him, that for myself I had rather be excused; but that if Harry and he chose to go, they had my full consent. In the morning, therefore, they began their preparations; and whilst they were getting ready, I begged Bell not to venture more than a few miles or so from home, which he promised. The morning following they took their depar-

ture, before we turned out. They had two dogs with them, and my small spy-glass.

In the evening, Owen took a whim to go a fishing with Rory down the lagoon. They set off about four o'clock, and I took my walk up the hill, in order to look out, as was my custom. I had not been long there before I discovered two sail in the offing, and as I thought standing right in shore. I eagerly clapped my glass to my eye, and perceived it to be really so. I knew not what to think of this; but as they seemed to stand in from a north-east quarter, I had doubts in my mind whether they were Spaniards or not. At first view I thought they were both sloops. They were then very far out; but on one of them jibbing her mainsail, she proved to be a schooner. In a short time, it came up thick in the horizon, and I lost sight of them. I now returned home, and lighting my pipe, walked down to the landing

place. I waited with some impatience about an hour, when I saw Rory and Owen coming in from fishing. I told Owen what I had seen, and he wished that we should go up again. We did so, but as the night was coming on, and the horizon quite thick, we could perceive no more of them.

Seeing nothing of our travellers, we gave them up for the evening, and I sat smoking by my wife in deep meditation till midnight. I was up before sunrise, and on the look out, but not a sail could I perceive anywhere along the whole horizon; therefore who or what they were I could never learn, though at the time I entertained many conjectures concerning them. A sail was at all times to me an interesting object: it seemed to be the link that united me to the civilized world which I had left, and, from a certain association of ideas, carried me back to my boyish days. In this mental retrospect I have indulged myself to

such an excess of tenderness, that I have suddenly burst into tears, and been obliged to fly to some occupation to relieve the anguish of my mind.

The next day, towards the evening, our adventurers arrived, weary enough, and glad we all were to see them returned safe and well. They were almost famished with hunger. Our females soon prepared them a good supper, and we suffered them to retire to rest, without interrogations, seeing them so much fatigued.

On the morrow, Bell gave us the following brief account of his journey. After they had gone about five miles to the northwest, mostly through woods, they observed the land to rise gradually, and at length came to an open country. Here they sat down to refresh themselves. While they were thus employed, they remarked at a small distance a tree of most enormous size, but quite hollow, and so large within

the trunk, that he believed at least thirty men could find shelter there. From this tree they set forward again, and took a course to the north. The ground continuing to rise, till they came to a small wood of lofty trees, Harry mounted one of them, in order to take a more extensive survey around him. When he came down, he said they were on a very high hill, and that the land fell away into a deep valley, covered with wood; that towards the sea there was a hill of rocks, and a great lagoon, with much water. Upon this intelligence they descended the hill, and as they went on found the bones of several deer; but in their whole journey they had seen no living beast. They concluded they were now at least ten miles from home. Harry ascended another tree, and judged they were about five miles from the great cliffs they had before discovered, but that they must keep away more towards the

sun rising. On this report, they determined to set off for the place, but soon found that Harry was out in his reckoning as to the distance, as it was evening before they could get to the bottom. Here finding themselves in a deep valley, the sun then far sunk in the west behind the hills, it became very gloomy, and they had thoughts of making a large fire for their security in the night; but soon after they found the wood not so thick; and fewer trees, and they could see the light at a distance between them. This gave them fresh courage, and in about a quarter of an hour they found themselves at the verge of the wood. Here a vast expanse opened to their view. Nature appeared very rude and wild indeed, and it seemed as if some great convulsion of the earth had torn or split the mountains around them, there being scattered about in every direction huge massy fragments of rocks; between some of these they con-

cluded to take up their lodging for the night, which they did, without any interruption, having made a large fire round them. On the morrow, they mounted one of the large rocks, and taking a fresh survey, they could see the mangroves and low country clear out to sea, which they supposed to be about five miles distance. Having thus satisfied their curiosity, they returned home to make a report of their expedition.

CHAP. XXXV.

TWENTY SECOND YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

I HAD now been on this shore twenty one years and two months, when a very uncommon event happened, of which I shall give a plain and faithful narrative. One day as Bell and I were out in the bay, fishing for our pleasure, he observed to me that it was somewhat odd I had never expressed any desire to visit his new northern discovery, as he was sure it could be easily accomplished by sea. I told him I really had a wish to go there, and that I hoped speedily to put it in execution, but that

we must leave some one at home to protect the family during our absence.

“ Well then,” said he, “ you and Harry can go ; I will remain at home ; he can stand pilot, and will, I am sure, steer you to the place.”

I determined to make this expedition, and when we came in, intimated as much to my brother Harry, who was much pleased with the thought of accompanying me, and said he could hit the place exactly. I desired him to get one of our best boats ready, and all other matters needful for our excursion.

About two days after we put down the lagoon, and got the length of Tower's Field by two o'clock in the afternoon, weathered Whale Point, and got the whole length of Boom-bay in the evening. Here we put up for the night. In the morning we put to sea again, in order to get round a long point. We now opened a new scene

of country. Along this shore we ran at the rate of about five knots an hour. Harry concluded we should soon see the cliffs from the sea; but we coasted the shore, till by my judgment we were at least eight leagues from our own bay, and had thoughts of returning back, just as we were abreast of a high bluff point of land full of tall trees. Here we proposed to go on shore and stay for the night, and make our way back early the next morning. After we had landed, and made a good fire, it being towards evening, Harry mounted a tree, and looking about him, said, we were not above a mile from the lagoon, for that he saw the cliffs quite plain.

“Then let us make up a tent for the night,” said I, “and in the morning we will go round the point, if the wind stands.”

The next morning we got round by sunrise, but not a sign of any lagoon could I

see at all. When we got about a mile further, I saw something like the mouth of a small lagoon, which I should not have given myself the trouble to enter, had not Harry spied at a distance the tops of the cliffs between the bushes. We put in, and found a narrow pass for the space of a mile or so, not more than a ship's length wide, and very crooked; it then opened into a much longer space, and the water was above three fathoms deep. We now met with another straight for a short length, and all at once we opened a lake at least a mile or more across, surrounded by a stony flat shore. This ran back half a mile or more, then began to rise a most tremendous mass of rocks, cliffs, and huge fallen stones. As we were viewing this scene, I took up my glass, and had not held it long to my eye, before I cried out to Harry, in great surprise, that I saw a black man, or some wild creature resembling a

man, moving among the rocks. This startled Harry, and he begged the glass of me. As he was looking, he perceived him move to a clear place, and returning the glass to me, said, "it is a strange man indeed; and, brother, let us be going back directly, if you please."

I told him not to be afraid, for, were it Lucifer himself, I was determined to speak to him, if possible, before we returned.

"Then," said he, "if you are not afraid of him, I won't be afraid of him, brother."

We put to shore, and both got out with our guns, and marched directly for the place where we saw him first, but found that he had not yet discovered us. As we approached somewhat nearer to him, I sat down, where he could not see me, to take a more distinct view, before we hailed him. He appeared to be a tall old negro man, with his head and beard white as wool; he was naked, and had a staff or club in his

hand. We were at this time about half a mile from him, and found that as yet he had not perceived us. On a sudden we lost sight of him among the rocks; we then advanced apace, but could not get a glimpse of him again; therefore we ran back to our boat, dreading lest we might be deprived of her, before we could reach the place where she lay. Soon after we had put off from the shore on our return, Harry perceived a smoke rising among the rocks, and cried out, "there we have him again."

"There let him remain for the present," said I; "we will make for home as soon as possible."

"What, brother, afraid?" said Harry.

"No;" replied I, "but what would you have done if more of them had appeared, and they had ran away with our boat when we had left her?"

"Then we must have gone home by land," said he.

“What, and starve by the way, without fire tackling?” said I.

We at once put away before the wind, and got home in two days, after getting aground on Whale Point. Our people were rejoiced to see us, and Bell had the whole relation of our voyage from me. I must frankly confess, when the old negro disappeared, my former idle notions of the Yahoos returned full upon me; but when I perceived the smoke from between the rocks, my mind was easy again.

After hearing the account of my voyage, Bell said he was determined to go, if I would permit Rory to accompany him, and he would not return till he had spoken to the old man, if he could find him in any reasonable time. I told him, with all my heart; and accordingly about a week after they set forward, by the chart I furnished them with. The account Bell gave me was as follows. They got to the place with

ease, and after waiting a whole day without seeing a living being, they concluded that the whole was visionary, and that we had been deceived. No kind of smoke was to be seen any where; yet he was bold enough to continue there in the boat all night, and early in the morning Rory waked him to shew him a smoke. Upon this he told Rory to bring out the two guns and follow him. They made right away for the place from whence the smoke rose, which was about a mile from them, up among the rocks. As they were about two thirds on their way, and just turning round a large high piece of rock, the grey dog they had with them gave a long howl, when to his great surprise a tall black old man stood but a short distance from them; he was turning to leave them with as much speed as he was able, but appearing feeble in his joints, he was necessarily slow in his motions. Bell hailed him, but he seemed

unwilling to have any parley. They went immediately up and stopped him, upon which the poor creature fell down on his knees, and began to beg for mercy, in Spanish. Bell desired him not to have any fears on their account, as they intended him no harm, and desired to know how many of them there were in that place, as he appeared to be so old and helpless. To his great surprise, the old man told him he was alone, and that he had been there longer than he could well remember.

“But would you not rather end your days,” said Bell “in the society of your fellow creatures? How do you live? What do you eat? Does any one come to relieve you if you are in want?”

“No,” he said, “nor have I spoke a word to any man since the time I first landed here, nor do I wish to speak to any man, or to see any man again for the rest of my days.” He then asked Bell where he came

from ; and being told, he replied, “ then go back to the same place, and do not trouble a poor old man, who neither asks nor wants assistance of any kind. I have lived long quiet since I left the faces of white men. I would not return to them ; they live upon the blood of poor black men, and could get nothing from me but dry bones ; I am too old for them ; so young man be advised by me, leave me where I am ; I may perhaps die before to-morrow.”

“ And who will you have to bury you ?” said Bell.

“ The crows,” he replied ; and began to move off ; but we followed him till he came to his fire, which was between four rocks, in a very secret place. When he found they followed him, he turned round to them, and fixing his aged eyes upon Bell, stamped his staff on the ground, and with some degree of passion, cried out, “ white man trouble me no more ! Go, I hate you, and all of

your colour ! I have but little blood left, let me die in quiet by myself."

Bell was not satisfied to leave him under this impression, which he thought he had the power to remove. He therefore began by telling him, that though his opinion of his white brethren might be formed from his own unhappy experience, yet that it was unjust. It was his particular misfortune to have fallen into bad hands ; but the excesses of a few individuals should not attach infamy to the whole race. If he had spent a year or two with them at our habitation, his opinion of white men would be very different. The old man replied, that it was true he judged from the experience of his past life. He was now very old, and had no time to correct his judgment. He had no desire to be acquainted with white men. He said it was natural for me to speak in favour of my own colour ; but even if what I asserted was

true, he could relate such stories as would fully justify his aversion to them. Then with a kind of disdainful convulsive laugh, which shewed the violence of his resentment, he added, "White man good ! No, no, no !"

Bell changed his mode, and began to soothe him. He said, it was true, he had observed, when in the islands, that the condition of the poor black men was very miserable. He had a great aversion to slavery. God had created man free. It was their birthright ; and no man had a privilege to infringe this first law of nature.

Upon this the old man said, " Can you then blame me for wishing to keep myself free ?"

Finding him grow somewhat more mild, he took the opportunity to desire he would give him some account of his life and misfortunes, and how he came to settle in this

wretched place ; supposing that he must have suffered great misery before he could have taken so desperate a resolution.

“ True, true, white man,” said the poor old creature, with a heavy groan, “ you see my head all white now ; but no matter. Yes, I have suffered.”

He then stopped short, and looking somewhat sternly, said, “ How did you find me out ? You are no Spaniard. What country did you come from ? ”

Bell said he was a Scotchman, and would endeavour, if he did not object to his plan, to make his old heart easy and happy yet before he died.

“ No, no,” said the old man ; “ no happiness for me. What can you do ? ”

“ In the first place,” Bell replied, “ you must go with me. I have a friend with whom I live. He has been on this shore for many long years, continually doing

good to his fellow creatures, although he has been unfortunate enough himself.

“What countryman is he?” said the old man?

“English,” answered Bell.

“Not the better for that,” he replied. “Where do you live? How far off?”

Bell told him about thirty miles to the southward, and that if he would go with them, he would find a resting place for his old bones, and a hearty welcome; for he was sure his friends would receive him kindly, and cherish and comfort him for the rest of his life. He hoped this invitation, which was made with great sincerity, would be sufficient to induce him to leave this forlorn and desolate place. The old man's countenance changed from stern and vindictive contempt to a mild and pleasing complacency, filled with hope.

After a short hesitation, he said, “ if you live like free men together, and do not keep black people in slavery, I might perhaps feel some joy to be with you ; but will you swear, that if I change my mind, and wish to return to my old place again, you will not oppose my inclinations.”

Bell told him he would willingly bind himself by an oath, to act exactly as he should wish ; that he would not only give no opposition to his inclinations, but would assist him in gratifying them, and convey him to whatever place he should direct, if he was not happy in our society.

The whole of this conversation passed in Spanish, but the old man said he could speak English once, having lived much with them at Barbadoes and Jamaica. Bell said they now began to grow hungry, and told the old man they would set off early the next day, pointed out to him where the boat lay, and then took leave of him for

this time. When the morning came, they observed the old man on his way to the boat. They soon embarked with him, put out of the lagoon, and arrived at our place in perfect safety. Before they came in, Owen, who had been on the look out, returned, and said, he thought he heard a shell blow. This soon mustered us together, and we set out for the landing place. Soon after which we heard the conch again, and not far off. Presently we saw them approach, and to our great surprise, discovered a third person in the boat. The women and young ones were so alarmed that they ran home. When they had landed, we were obliged to assist the old man, as he could hardly rise. His legs were quite cramped by sitting so long in the boat, and this, together with his great age, rendered him extremely feeble. However, we brought him home safe to our habitation, and seated him in the shade. It

was somewhat diverting to see our young people come from their hiding places to take a peep at his odd figure, as he sat with his hands over his knees, and his chin almost resting on them. I desired Harry to get a bed made up for him in the shed where old Nunez had formerly slept. While I was giving these orders, I found the old man had risen from his seat, and was stumping about as well as his stiff joints would let him. I walked up to him, and asked, in Spanish, what was his name? He said he had three names, one given him by the English, which was Sambo, after a favourite negro who had died, and in whose room he was purchased; by the Spaniards he was called Diego, and in his own country Quammeno. I asked him how old he was? He said he could not tell for true; but that he had a wife when he came from the Ebo country to Barbadoes. I asked him if he recollected what

king governed the English people at that time?

“Yes,” he said, “very well. They said the king at that time was a woman, and a great warrior, as he heard.”

This could be no other than Queen Anne. His whole appearance and general decrepitude shewed him to be of a great age. I asked him how it was that he had so great a hatred to white men, as my friend had informed me he had? I should like to hear his story, perhaps he had been the aggressor, and they were not so much to blame. What had he say to this?

He replied thus. “The white men who brought me here to see you, and to hear you talk, promised to take me back whenever I wished to go to my old place. If you think me a bad man send me back to my own rocks again.”

I bid him take courage and fear nothing. He was come to a place of rest and quiet-

ness. He should have our constant friendship, as I was sure he would deserve it. I was the master here; and he was freely welcome to share our conveniences and comforts. I would not fatigue him now, but I should be glad, after a night's rest, if he would give me the particulars of his story.

He then came and took both my hands, and said, "I do believe you have learnt to be a good man, or you would not be contented to live in this poor place of woods and rocks; and, master, if I live till to-morrow, I will tell you all I can recollect of my sad story."

I then took my leave of him for the night.

I was surprised that a man of his age should not be bald. His head, with the quantity of white wool that was on it, was as large as a thrum mop, with a thick bushy white beard. This, added to his black skin,

gave him a most extraordinary appearance. He had certainly been a very stout man in his younger days ; was at least six feet high, but now stooped much on account of his age.

The next morning I paid a visit to the old man, who was much recovered from his fatigue. I sat and chatted with him some time, and to my great satisfaction found that I had inspired him with confidence. I expressed some curiosity to hear his story. He said it was a painful exercise to be obliged to remember it. His misfortunes had left indelible marks behind them. It was a story of blood. He had met with but little of human kindness. He believed the recital of it would excite my pity towards him ; but he was sure, after having heard it, I should not wonder at the hatred he had expressed towards white men. I told him that as he might now consider himself a perfectly free man, and in a place of

rest and quiet for the remainder of his days, if he thought proper, the retrospect of his past life, though in a certain degree painful to him, might be beneficial to those who were made acquainted with it, and not entirely useless to himself; as he would have so much reason to be grateful to the author of his being, for having given him strength to support himself under such severe trials, and for having at length provided him with a peaceful retreat, when he least expected it. He expressed a grateful sense of his preservation; but added, that life had no further pleasure for him; hope had been long extinct; and that till he met with us, he had only looked forward with satisfaction to the day of his death, as the period of his misery. I cannot preserve his exact words, but this was the substance of what he said. He now began upon his story.

STORY OF THE OLD NEGRO MAN.

“ IN my own country I was a free man. I had a wife and child, and lived happy with them. Some white men came to our place to buy slaves that had been taken in war. I was not a slave; I had no fear of them, because they had no power over me, being free. I was taken away by force, and carried on board a ship, which was full of black men. I was chained, as many others were. My wife was in the ship too, but I did not know it, till she found me out some time after. We all supposed we were taken from our country to be killed, perhaps to be devoured, as none of our people ever came back again. My wife was suffered to go backwards and forwards to the

cabin ; she discovered and informed us where the arms were placed ; she contrived to furnish us with some. We agreed to rise upon our enemies, to destroy them, and return to our own country. A discovery was made of our proceedings and intention. My wife was seized in the fact of conveying away arms ; she was tied up to the mast and whipped sadly, to make her confess which of the blacks had set her on this business. She would not confess. She was again tied up and whipped ; still she would not confess. The captain gave orders to continue her punishment till she made the discovery. They did, and she died under the whip. She was thrown into the sea. I was below, I could see nothing, but heard all. My heart grew big ; I could not eat ; I was sick ; I was silent. Had they known she was my wife, they would have whipped me dead also. From that hour I hate, I curse all white men."

Here he was obliged to stop for a few moments, to give vent to his feelings. I could not interrupt him; he went on.

“ Well, after this we came to Barbadoes; a fisherman bought me; he burnt my back with hot irons, to mark me as his slave. I who was born free, was marked as a slave. My master was a mulatto man. I thought he would treat me better for that. He was very hard hearted and cruel; he whipped me for no fault. My heart grew big again. I stay with him two, three years; he whip me often. I love poor negro girl, she live about four miles from Bridgetown. My master give me leave to go see poor negro girl on a Sunday; we make merry, stay at dance too late, not go home all night; next day afraid of the whip, not go home. Negro man Joe come to fetch me; go home with negro man. My master tie me up, whip me sadly, said he would burn my cheek as a runaway.

Look, here the mark where he burn; (shewing his cheek.) I bid him kill me quite, I could not live with him. He bid me get a new master, and be d——d. He did not care who had me, if he had the money he paid for me. I knew one Mr Freeman from Jamaica. He bought me of my master. I went to Jamaica with him. He died of a fever soon after we arrived. I was sold again. My new master lived on the north side of the island. Knowing I had been a fisherman, he employed me that way, and my life was mostly spent on the water. I lived with this man several years, and had a wife, belonging to the same estate, by his consent. We had two children. One day as I was sitting under the rocks on the sea beach, near a point of land, all at once three men jumped upon me and said, 'Vamus, vamos.' I was amazed, finding them to be Spaniards. They took me by force round

the point, where lay a small piccaroon sloop, on board which I was ordered. I there found more of my colour whom they plundered like myself. I should not so much have grieved for my change, for my life was hard enough, but my wife and children were very dear to me. I was but a slave still; but when I thought of my dear wife and children my heart swell very big. I hate, I curse white men more than ever.

“ They took me to St Jago de Cuba, and there I was bought by a rich old gentleman, who finding that I had followed fishing, gave orders that I should have the same employment under him. This old master use me kindly. I did every thing to please him. After living some time with him, I could speak Spanish pretty well. He asked me one day if I had not a wife and children in Jamaica.

“ I said, ‘ Yes, my wife and children

very dear to me, but I never see them more.'

" 'Never mind that, Diego,' said he, 'you shall have another wife here. We have plenty of young women, and you shall have your choice.'

" I thanked him, but thought no more of it that time. My master like me better every day ; made me overseer over all the negroes who had any thing to do with boats or fishing, and by degrees I began to feel myself happier than I had been for years before. One day as we were at work on an old canoe, to patch her up, my old master sent for me to come home to him, under a great tree where he was sitting. He said to me, ' Diego, do you know old Maria's daughter, the mulatto girl Isabella?'

" ' Yes, master,' said I, ' very well.'

" ' I am told,' he said, ' that she likes you very much. If you will have her for a wife, you have my consent.'

“ I thanked him for his kind offer ; and considering that I could never see poor Benneba and my children again, I took Isabella to be my wife. About six months after this, my young master came home from the Havannah, where he had been for a considerable time on business for his father. He was my very good friend before he went on this expedition, but now he was quite changed, and grew very ill-natured to me on all occasions. I could not think the meaning of it ; but one day my wife, when she was alone with me, said, she wondered what was the matter with young master ; she believed he hated her, for he called her bad names very often, when he thought nobody heard him.

“ ‘ May be,’ said I, ‘ he wanted you for himself.’

“ ‘ She did not know that,’ she said ; ‘ but it was very odd ; she had done nothing to offend him.’

“ Soon after she began to grow very sick, and a black man, old Cudjo, told me, he was sure she was poisoned ; that she would never have a child, but that she would look like it. This indeed, from appearance, was true ; and in about two years she died, never having been well since she was first taken with this sickness. Not long after, an old negro woman, who was dying, sent privately to speak to me. She said she could not die without begging my forgiveness ; but that indeed her young master had employed her to poison my wife. I had no means of revenge ; complaint was useless, but my mind did not forget. About a year after this, my old master seeing me at work, began to laugh, and said, ‘ Why, Diego, you have had bad luck in wives, I think.’

“ ‘ I think so too, master,’ said I.

“ ‘ Why don’t you make another trial ?’

“ I said, ‘ No, Sir, no more wife for me.’

“ ‘ Why so ? ’ he replied.

“ ‘ Because I have had three good wives already, and white men take them all from me.’

“ He desired to know how that had happened. I gave him a short account how I had been deprived of my wives. When I told him the last had been poisoned, ‘ Say you so,’ said he. ‘ If you can find out the person who committed this murder you shall have full justice done you.’

“ ‘ Ah ! master,’ said I, ‘ she is dead and gone home ; yet there is one alive who was concerned in this.’

“ ‘ Tell me who that is,’ he said, with a fierce look.

“ I fell on my knees, and begged he would suffer me to be silent. He seemed much offended, said he had always treated me well, and expected that I would have trusted him. He left me, as I thought, in great anger. I was very unhappy at

this. Soon after two negroes came, and told me I must come to the stock house. I threw down the net I was at work on, and went with them. I was there laid on my back, with my head in a hole, and left for two days. The third day my master ordered me up to the house. When I entered, he said, ‘ You see Diego that I have been justly offended at your conduct ; that if I know how to reward, I likewise know how to punish. I am resolved to sift this matter to the bottom. You must either acquaint me who it was that was concerned in the death of Isabella, or prepare yourself to undergo a much more severe punishment. I will have the truth, without any compromise or qualification whatever.’

“ I once more fell on my knees, and begged him to excuse me ; for the loss of my wife I could receive no reparation ; the punishment of the offender would not re-

store my lost quiet. The desire of revenge had subsided in my bosom ; but I would spare those for whom I had the greatest esteem from the pain of such a discovery. I begged him as he valued his own happiness to urge me no further. I was willing to bear my wrongs in patient silence. He looked sternly at me, and said, ‘ As you value your life answer me without further equivocation.’

“ I replied, ‘ that my life was then equally in danger by the discovery as by my silence. If I continue obstinate, your anger will take away my life. If I make the confession which you now force from me, my danger will be equal from my young master Hernan, your son, when he returns from Vera Cruz ; for it was he who employed old Quasheba to poison my wife.’

“ My master clapped his hands violently to his head, and, with some vehemence,

cried, "You have said enough—go—retire."

"He left the room suddenly in great agitation. I was set to my work as usual. My master took no notice of me; but some of the white men about the house said, they were sure some great mischief would happen to me. This made me very sorrowful. My young master would not be home for two months, and they all said some great storm was gathering over my head. Considering my life in danger, I came to the resolution of leaving the place, and flying, I did not care where, so that I could hide me for ever from the faces of white men, whom I hated, as the causes of my misery.

"My mind was intent on my purpose to escape the first opportunity. A favourable circumstance soon occurred, which put it in my power to effect it. Soon after this, I was ordered to collect several things to

be taken to a country house my master had about five leagues to windward, where much company was invited to meet him. I let no one know my intentions, but put every thing on board that I thought would be useful to me, and then with another negro called Mingo put off for my master's place. When we arrived, I bid the old negro who lived there collect yams and many other things, which I knew would be useful to me, to go by the boat's return. On the next morning, at sunrise, I went down to the boat alone, having stowed away all my little cargo the evening before. I at once shoved her off, hoisted my sail, and stood directly out on a wind till the evening, when the land wind came and carried me clear off the coast, so that by morning I was got so far out that I had almost lost sight of the shore. In about five days I fell in with the place where your friend Mr Bell found me; and

there have I lived by myself from that time, without seeing the face of any human creature. There I expected to die, without regretting the world which I had abandoned, and in love with my solitude, which hid me from the sight of white men, as I hoped for ever. This is my story. I would have avoided your friend, if it had been possible. He was resolved I should not. He succeeded. I believe his intentions were fair and good. I am once more with white men ; but you seem to be of a better sort than those I have met with. If you use me with kindness, I may yet live a little while to thank you. If I prove troublesome, and you grow tired of my company, your honour is engaged to take me back again to my rocks, where I may lay myself down and die content and quiet."

Quammino having finished his story, I gave him every assurance of my friendship and protection, and hoped at least to be made an exception from his general hatred of white men. I then asked him how long he thought he had lived at that place?

“Moons without number,” he said. But as he had kept no kind of reckoning, I could only judge from the age he supposed himself to be when he fled from St Jago de Cuba, which was about forty-five, and that he must now be full seventy, if not more. Yet notwithstanding his age, now he had fully recovered from his fatigue, he seemed active and strong, particularly in our fishing parties. I inquired how he had lived and provided for himself. He said by fishing, and eating yams and other roots and fruits, which he had cultivated from those he had brought with him, there being good ground enough at the back of

the rocks ; and as to his sleeping and other matters, if I would make a short voyage with him one day, he would shew me the whole. Upon this I asked him, if he had a desire to return again. Just as I pleased, he said. It was a matter of very little consequence, where an old man, who was past his labour, laid himself down to die.

“ But would you willingly leave our company to remain there alone again ? ”

He confessed the longer he lived with us the more regret he should feel to part with us.

“ Well then,” said I, “ here are young ones enough to cherish and provide for an old man. You are quite at home ; do what you please ; go where you please, and amuse yourself in the best manner you can ; the toil and the labour be ours, who are better able to bear them.”

I had lived here almost twenty-two years, when I received a *coup de soleil*, or stroke of the sun, as Bell called it. I suffered very much indeed under it, and would not wish my greatest enemy to be visited with such a torment. The nature of this disorder is, that the pain comes on as the sun rises, and towards mid-day the patient becomes quite delirious. The throbbing of the head is so great, that the stomach becomes quite sick, till, by an effort, it relieves itself. Bell applied some large leaves, which he bound round my head, and these effected a cure.

CHAP. XXXVI.**TWENTY-THIRD YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.**

SOME few months after my headach had left me, I took a fancy to visit old Quammino's former dwelling. He was quite pleased with my proposal. I mentioned my intention to Bell, and proposed that my son should bear us company, as he wished much for a ramble. Accordingly in a few days we proceeded on our expedition; the old man, Owen, and myself. The particulars of our voyage I need not relate, except that we found a fine piece of amber-grise, just off Tower's Field, on the strand.

When we came into the lagoon, the poor old man gave a heavy sigh, and pointing to a short distance, "There," said he, "was my habitation. Trouble never reached me at that place, till I saw white man's face again, then trouble came back to me ; for I supposed that I should be forced away against my will, and that made me so savage to Mr Bell, as I did not think there was such white men as I have found you to be in the world."

"Yonder," said I, "is the spot where I first saw you."

"Aye, but that was not the place where I used to sleep," said he ; "but if you please I will get the boat up to the head of the bay, and will shew you where my canoe lies. I believe you would not easily find her out without my directions."

He did so ; and when we got thither, there opened another inlet, which I had not seen before, it being entirely land-

locked. We entered, and came up to some of the fallen cliff; and in a place formed by the fall of the stones into a kind of sharp archway, overgrown with poppenack bushes, lay his canoe, quite sheltered from the sun. This canoe Quammino told me he had made himself, and I gave him full credit for the assertion; for she was of the worst shape I had ever seen, and very small, not more than nine feet long; but she suited his purpose well enough.

I asked him what became of the boat he arrived in at that place?

“Oh,” said he, “she lies sunk a little way to the left yonder, but quite rotten at this time. We will now go to my old lodgings.”

We made our way over rocks and broken paths, till a large grove of small trees appeared before us.

“That is the place,” said he. “I planted all that grove myself. Now follow me.”

We entered among the trees, and soon

began to descend among rocks, to a considerable depth, till we came to a kind of level, walled up on each side by the accidental fallings of the cliff. The place was about the size of a large cabin. This he had covered with the limbs of small trees, and thatched with leaves, so that it really had a comfortable appearance. When we had seen his bed, he desired us to visit his cooking room. This was about twenty yards from his bed-chamber, and consisted of a large shelving place among the rocks. From hence we proceeded to his store room. This indeed was better furnished than the rest; for here we found several useful articles, such as fishing-nets, old darts, paddles, and a variety of other things, with some remains of his old sail. I observed several kinds of old Spanish tools, quite worn out with frequent use.

“ I have one more place to shew you,” said he, “ though I never made it a place of residence, as I had no look out from it.”

So after dinner he led us round to the south side of the hill, and shewed us a very large opening in the cliff.

“Here,” said he, “men have lived formerly, or at least used to frequent this place for a time, for there are marks of fires having been made. A pond of fresh water lies below in the valley, where I discovered an old path, with the remains of burnt sticks in abundance, with several marks cut with knives in the rocks. I told him I had no doubt but that the place was well known to the pirates in former times, as well as that part of the coast which was inhabited by me and my family. He now shewed me where his yams and potatoes grew, and where his fishing ground was. He generally used to strike the fish with a small dart, or kill them at night with an old cutlass, by the light of a wooden torch. He said he had scarcely tasted any flesh meat since his first arrival at that place.

Soon after this Quammينو led me into the pass through the rocks. I did not at the moment take notice that Owen did not follow us. As such places were common with us, it no way excited his curiosity. He had clambered up the cliffs in order to explore the country. When we returned I heard my son's voice, just as we came under an opening above our heads. I looked up and saw him upon an eminence, at no great distance. He called out that he saw a sail in the offing.

"Bon voyage," said old Quammينو; "let them go their way, we are happy without their company."

I asked if he had not sometimes seen vessels pass by?

He said, "Yes; several times." That once in the night he had seen one on fire as he believed.

"Aye," said I, "this was a long time ago. We saw it likewise from our place."

You must have spent many years at this place."

He said he believed he had lived as long here by himself as he had before lived with people.

There being a large stone on the ground behind us, which made a comfortable seat, "Come," said I to the old man, "let us sit down and take a pipe together." I took out my fire tackle, and began to strike a light. While I was doing this, I said, "It is a great pity, Quammino, that you have never been made a Christian. You seem to have a very sound judgment, and can reason upon things very well."

"Ah! master," he replied, "I am not so ignorant in this respect as you imagine. The old gentleman at St Jago de Cuba had me made a Christian, and I thought it would make white man love me better; but no such thing. I hear the good book of God read, where love, and peace, and

kindness are recommended ; but white men do not practise what they read there. They fight, and cheat, and kill one another. Black men cannot do any thing worse than they do. They go to churches and tell God they will never do harm to any people. They come out and do just as before, forgetting what they have promised. They say black men should be whipped to make them good slaves. Now, can they expect blacks to be good who are not Christians, when they who are so shew them so bad an example ? We have bad men enough in our country, and when they come among the whites they learn their wickedness too. They regard black men only as they do horses, mules, and other animals, to do work for them. 'They say too, the devil is black men's father.' He then asked me if I could tell who that Cain devil was, as the whites said the black men were his children ? Now this he thought

all wrong ; for he believed the same God made them all black and white. “ Did I not see other things differ in colour on the outside, but the same within ? Tell me what difference in colour there is between black man’s heart and white man’s heart ? I remember my master had a white horse that died and was skinned by the negroes in Jamaica ; and when I lived with my master at St Jago, he had black horse died, and when he was skinned the colour was the same as the white one.”

He went on a long time in the same strain. I sat all the while silently puffing away, for, to confess the truth, I had but little to say in favour of my own colour ; but told him, I thought he was a better man than thousands who pretended to more knowledge, and I was well assured that there would be no distinction of colour with God.

Owen now joined us, and we returned to the old man's bed-chamber, where we made a tolerable supper, all circumstances considered; and likewise rested for the night on Quammino's palmetto bed. In the morning I asked the old man if he did not find it very melancholy, when first he arrived, to be so much alone?

He said yes; but that he soon became used to it; and, indeed, as he had wished it, he was very soon reconciled to his situation. There was one circumstance that very much surprised and alarmed him. When he had been there, as he believes, about a year, he heard a loud noise, as it were from a large body of men shouting or giving a great huzza. That in the course of his being there he had heard it above twenty times, but never more than once at a time. That it sounded sometimes from one quarter and then from another.

I told him that I rather believed it to proceed from the wind gathering in that large cave, and making such a report. This he did not think satisfactory; but we could find no other cause, so let it pass.

In the morning we prepared for our return to my old habitation. Just as we had proceeded about half way out, a musket was discharged to seaward of us. This gave us a great alarm; but as I had braved so many dangers, I was resolved not to be terrified at this, but to act coolly and deliberately. The old man was likewise very composed. We therefore concluded to push out without the least fear or dread. Owen was really terrified, as he had been so little accustomed to strange faces. When we got out, I observed a vessel at anchor about half a mile to the north of us; and presently Owen pointed to three men sitting on the beach not far from us. I de-

terminated to speak to them, and for that purpose put to shore. I jumped out of the boat, and walked on the beach till I came within about forty yards of them. I then hailed them in Spanish; they immediately rose and returned an answer, on which I advanced up to them. They were three elderly men, and Spaniards as they said, and belonged to the schooner then at anchor. They had been looking for a watering place. I told them, if they were bound down the coast I could shew them a very convenient one, which would answer their purpose. They said they were. I then asked from whence they came? Campeachy they said, and their captain's name was Joachim Valdes. They wished me to go on board with them when their boat came on shore. I thanked them, and made a signal for my companions to come up to us, which in a short time they did. When they observed the different complexions of

my comrades, one of the men asked me of what country I was, as he knew by my speech that I was neither Spaniard nor Portuguese? I candidly acknowledged myself to be an Englishman; which I thought better than to affect any disguise, situated as we then were. Poor Owen stood motionless before them; and old Quammينو kept silence, fearing lest they might be from St Jago de Cuba and should recollect him. To put him at once out of his fear, I told him they were from Campeachy.

As we were sitting all together on the beach, one of the Spaniards, as I took them to be, the same person who had discovered that I was not of that country, turned to old Quammينو and said, "Faith and troth, my old Trojan, and you will not pass upon us for a Spaniard, will you? Why, by my soul, man, you look as if you had been born in the days of Fin Mac-Coul."

I was not a little surprised to find by his tongue that this was an honest Hibernian, and he was no less so at hearing old Quammino answer him in good English.

“Oh bubba, bubba, boo!” said he, “we are all English together I find now.” And then addressing himself to me, said, “And pray what is your name, honey; are you any thing of a seaman; and what brought you here, joy, among this spotted clan?”

I told him my story was rather too long for the present, but that my name was Penrose.

“Sure!” said he, “may it be Willy, then? Was your name ever Willy Penrose at all, honey?”

“How is it possible,” I replied “that you should ever know Llewellyn Penrose, who has been so long lost to his country, unless you mean some other of my name?”

“Never mind that, my jewel; but tell

me, did you not once belong to the Flying Oxford?"

I told him I did.

"And don't you remember the man that was washed overboard and washed inboard again, honey, in a gale of wind off the Bay of Biscay?"

I said "I well remembered the circumstance, but had forgotten the person's name, except that it was Taddy."

"Oh! that's right, by St Patrick, child; it was Taddy Lost, sure enough! But what keeps you among these dung coloured thieves?"

"Shipmate," said I, "many changes have I gone through since that day; but to cut the matter short, as I see your boat is coming to shore, you must know this lad is my son, and never knew what a thief meant."

"Oh, blood! Willy, I ask your pardon. Young lad, my good fellow, tip us your daddle, honey!"

He then shook Owen so heartily by the hand that it made the poor boy stare again.

“Ah! messmate Willy,” said he, “I knew you were no Spaniard, by that little English brogue on your tongue, my dear, agraph!”

The boat being now arrived, they begged me to go on board with them. I told Owen to come alongside the schooner with our boat also. So off we went. When we got on board, Taddy took me aft to the captain, and told him he had found a countryman on shore, who would shew them a watering place. Captain Valdes received me kindly, and asked me many questions concerning my habitation and manner of living.

After I had briefly informed him of the circumstances of my life, he was pleased to say, “It became every man to treat me with all kindness and civility, as perhaps God had placed me there to admini-

ster relief to distressed seamen ; and that he was glad to hear I was so well resigned to my very uncommon way of life." He then sent a boy for a flask of aquadienta and drank to me. I told him it was what I was quite unused to, and begged to decline taking any. He laughed heartily, and said neither English nor Dutchmen ever flinched the glass, and he could not take my excuse on this first acquaintance. Upon this I drank it off. He gave orders to run up the cable, and we stood down alongshore, keeping a good offing, as I told him there were many shoals on the coast. As the wind failed us in the afternoon, we let go the anchor off Whale Point, and there remained for the night. I now thought it would be proper to send off Owen and the old man, to inform them at home what had fallen out in our absence.

Early on the morrow, the wind coming

up at east, we stretched off, and in a short time came abreast the point of Long Key, where we came to again. I then went on shore with them, and shewed them the watering-place. I begged the captain to accompany me to my habitation, and see my family and place of residence, as I expected my boat would be with us presently. About noon Bell and Owen came off to us from our place and saluted the captain. In the evening he went on shore with us. When we got into our own lagoon, Owen took up the conch and gave a blast: Harry answered it directly from the shore. The captain observing it, asked the reason. I told him it was our stated custom; that we all had a particular way of sounding, by which means we knew each other's blast, so that if strangers came, (it being an Indian custom likewise) we were prepared to receive them on their visit to us. When we came to the landing place, our

whole family ran down to see the strangers.

Captain Valdes was surprised to see so large a company, and asked which was my wife. I at once introduced him to my lady and children, and then to Harry as my brother-in-law, and the rest. Bell was master of the ceremonies, as he spoke Spanish with fluency. Harry and Rory went to get some cray fish, and the females provided yams and other matters as I had directed them.

While this was doing, the captain, Bell, and myself, walked round our habitation. We shewed him our burying ground, and the stone we had placed over old Nunez his countryman. Owen, in the simplicity of his heart, desired me to shew the captain the place where we had found the treasure. This was fortunately said in English, which the captain did not understand. Bell gave him a check privately,

and he held his tongue from that time. After supper, the captain asked if we had no desire to revisit our native country. I told him there was a time when I had felt a strong desire to do so, but it had long subsided, and I was now content to end my days where I had lived so long in peace and quiet. Bell expressed a similar resolution, and said so long as he could enjoy my company, he had nothing to regret which the world could give him; he had thoroughly proved my friendship and knew its value; he had no cares, he wanted for nothing, and what earthly king could enjoy more happiness.

I had prepared my own bed for the captain, and we all turned in at about eleven o'clock. The next morning I went with him to the Long Key, and there renewed my acquaintance with my old messmate Taddy Lost. When he saw me coming, he cried out,

“ Ah ! Willy, and is it you my dear ? sure enough I’m glad to see you again ; I have been telling my shipmates all about you, honey, and how and where I first became acquainted with you Faith and that’s a long, long time ago my dear, but we’ll be on board presently, and then we’ll have a little drop of the crature together, for old acquaintance sake, honey.”

I thanked my old shipmate, and went on board with the captain. About half an hour after the boat came alongside with the water. The captain proposed to take leave of us this afternoon, or early the next day. Taddy now came aft, and making his leg to the captain, asked me if I would not take a parting drop of grog with him before I left the schooner ; he was but a poor foremast-man to be sure, and perhaps I might be much richer than him, yet he hoped I would not forget old times.

“ Forget,” said I, “ no ; for the honour of old England and old Ireland too ; if it was the last drop of grog I am ever to drink, I will take it from thy hands my old boy.”

“ Well, then,” he replied, “ here’s merry madness to all misers, Mr Penrose.”

I received the calabash from him, and drank to all true hearts and sound bottoms. While I was drinking, “ Ad’s flesh man,” said he, “ do you never send home to the ould country at all, at all ? Trust me with a letter my dear, and I’ll deliver it sure enough at Surinam to some Dutchman bound home. You may depend upon me ; as sure as the devil’s in Ireland I’ll not fail my promise.”

I returned him thanks, and promised, if they did not sail before the next day, I would forward a letter by him. Just as I had spoken these words, a lad at the mast-head cried, “ vela, vela.” This I knew meant a sail ; and he pointed her to be in

the offing. Orders were immediately given to hoist a St Andrew's jack, or what our seamen call a ragged staff. This was no sooner done than the word passed forward to run up the anchor. On this I went to take my leave of the captain. He told me it was a sloop that sailed in company with them, and he would stand out to join her, as she was bound to Surinam with them, but had parted company in thick weather, about seven days ago. I bid Owen jump into our boat; and had but just time to shake hands with Captain Valdes, when they filled and stood out to sea. Lost at the same time waving his red cap, and crying, "long life to you Willy, long life my jewel." We remained among the reefs for some time, striking fish, and observing their motions. At last we saw them speak each other, and then both stand away south.

“We returned home and lived on after the old manner, without any thing new happening until the year ran out; and by my account I had been on this shore full **twenty-three years.**

CHAP. XXXVII.

TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

ONE day as Bell and I were in the bay together, he said he had observed a great change in the manners of my son Owen of late. I told him I had not noticed any such change, except that I thought he grew more sedate, which was natural, as he had now nearly reached the years of manhood.

“What age may he be?” said Bell.

“About eighteen,” I replied.

“Well then my friend the sooner you find a wife for him the better. You know how much we all love him.”

“As to that matter, messmate,” I replied, “there will be but little difficulty in obtaining a wife for him from among our friends ; and they will be proud enough to execute the commission, or to give him his choice of all the Indian girls belonging to their tribe.”

On this Bell began to laugh, and said, “I see you are ignorant of the whole matter ; why your son is in love already.”

“For God’s sake what do you mean ?” said I. “Not with your wife I hope !”

“No, no, no,” he replied, “a very different object I assure you ; one by many degrees fairer than my wife ; and the best of it is he does not know what ails him. But I will explain the whole to you. You must recollect that Owen has often heard us extol the beauty of our fair countrywomen. Perhaps at first it made but little impression on him ; but as he grew older, and nature began

to stir within him, he paid more attention to our discourse, and would frequently ask questions concerning them; so that I plainly perceived he had formed in his mind, from our description, an ideal beauty, which engrossed the whole of his thoughts. I will now tell you how I found all my suspicions confirmed on this subject. You may remember, that in Captain Valdes's cabin there was a beautiful picture of the Virgin. I was with Owen when he first saw it. The effect was violent and instantaneous. He was confused—he changed colour—he trembled—his whole soul seemed to issue from his eyes—he had no consciousness but for the object before him. I spoke to him—he heard me not. I took him by the arm to lead him out of the cabin. He started as one suddenly awakened from sleep—looked at me—then again at the picture—then on

the ground. His eyes were filled with tears ; and he followed me without uttering a word. I saw the conflict that was passing in his mind. The form he had just seen was the image of that ideal perfection which his fancy had represented to him. It was decorated with all those exterior charms which his warm and creative imagination had bestowed upon it, with a peculiar turn of features which fixed it at once as the object of his affection. I was resolved to watch the farther progress of this rising passion. I saw him soon after steal, unobserved as he thought, into the cabin. I followed him. He approached the picture with a bashful timidity, as if he was fearful of offending the object it represented. The virgin was painted with an air of pensive melancholy. From a kind of sympathetic correspondence, his features took the same cast. He drew

nearer to it, but with as much tenderness and caution as if he had been afraid of disturbing its contemplations; he sat down, sighed, then fixed his eyes on it in silent but most expressive attention. I now thought it was time to break in upon his reverie; on finding me near him he seemed ashamed, and hurried out of the cabin as if to conceal the motive of his revisiting it. Putting all these things together, I am persuaded he is in love, and that you and I have been the innocent cause of giving a direction to his passion towards one of a fairer complexion than he is likely to meet with in this part of the world. The picture corresponded with our description, and is the immediate object of his affection; it will require no little ingenuity and perseverance on our part to induce him to transfer his passion from so fair an object to the browner beauties of this climate. However, time and fair treatment will,

I doubt not, conquer his reluctance, and make us all easy on this subject; leave the management of it to me."

The subject was now dropt for the time, and we returned home with our game.

Some time after this, as Harry and Owen were standing together one day, Bell observed that Owen was the tallest of the two.

"Ay," said Harry, "Owen big enough for a wife now; but where he get one among rocks and trees?"

"And pray, Mr Harry," said Bell, "who made you so very wise; and where do you think she can come from then?"

"Ah!" replied Harry, "I know what I know."

"And, pray, what is that?"

"I know if one ship come here with fine white and red women, Owen soon get a wife; he love white women like mad."

"What say you to all this, Owen?"

added Bell. "Are you foolish enough to set your heart upon what cannot be obtained? Pray, will not one of our friends' daughters serve your turn as a wife, as they have done for your father and me before?"

"I don't know," said Owen. "You tell me so much of the beauty of your countrywomen, that it appears to me that our women have none; and if white ones were to have been had, neither you nor my father would have chosen as you did."

"Nonsense," said Bell; "can you be so silly as to be in love with what you have never seen?"

"Yes," he replied; "I see what white women are like in Captain Valdes' ship."

"Oh! you did; and you suppose all white women to be like that picture! If you were to be among them, you would soon see your error; but even if they were, none such are to be met with here; the

thing therefore being impossible, you should drive such a foolish fancy from your head, and act as your father and I have done before you, and be content with what God has provided for you, without reaching at the clouds, which you can never touch."

Thus ended the conversation for this time. The sky now began to be overcast very much, and it threatened to come up thick and dirty from the south-east. This was about five in the evening; when it began to freshen up smartly, and all our thoughts were employed in collecting our light things and stowing them away in the best manner we could. About the shutting in of night the rain came on, attended with such tremendous lightnings and thunder, as we had never before experienced; and, to increase our terror young Job, who was not more than eleven years of age, had taken little Somer with him down the lagoon in the canoe, and was not returned.

What to do we could not tell, as by this time it blew so strong, none of us could keep our legs. Harry observing the distress my wife was in, insisted upon going to seek for them; but just at this moment poor Job came in with the child safe and sound, to our great joy and surprise. I asked him how far off they had been; he said not very far, but that on their return he could not keep the canoe clear of the mangroves; so that he and little Somer were forced to take to the water and swim to the landing place. This was an undertaking that few except Indians would have ventured upon. The storm continued the best part of the night. About five in the morning I turned out to see what damage had happened, and soon beheld a sad scene of desolation. As for our kitchen, that was flat with the ground, I mean all the heavy parts of it, for as to the thatch and lighter materials, they were all blown as far as the cliff would

suffer them. Not a goat, dog, or fowl was to be seen. I took a shell and gave a blast; this brought forth all our family one by one, and I was well pleased to find no one absent or hurt. Bell observed, that had it been a cold climate, in all probability most of us had perished, as the rain had penetrated through every place except my cavern. We found several of our poultry dead, and the poor old mackaw also.

A few days after this, old Quammino shewed signs of a general decay of nature, which convinced us that he would not long continue among us; and Harry came to us one morning and informed us that he had died in the night, and that he went off quite easy, and without a groan. He was quite worn out, and died of old age, though perhaps the late storm might have somewhat hastened the event. It was a great satisfaction to us, that he had wanted for no kind of indulgence or care while he was

in our family ; and that he had lived long enough in our society to be convinced that all white men were not such as he had supposed them to be, from his unhappy experience.

The remains of poor Quammino were deposited in our family burying-ground with decent respect. It now became necessary to begin upon our repairs immediately. Harry and Rory were principally employed in this business ; and when things were tolerably reinstated, Bell proposed an excursion to explore the coast, as we had not been able to stir out for more than six weeks. Accordingly we got all ready, and stood out for our groupar ground, which was about two or three miles from the mouth of our lagoon.

It happened as I was sitting with the glass in my hand, I discovered away to the north what I supposed to be a wreck ; I gave Bell the glass, and desired him to

look ; he was of the same opinion, but it was so far northward, that we could but just make it. We continued at our killick fishing for about two hours, and then returned home, intending to send the lads to make a further discovery on the morrow.

It was not till three days after that Owen, Job, and Rory, set off on this expedition. They were well provided with necessaries for the trip ; and as Owen was to be captain, I gave him strict charge, that if it should prove a wreck, and any of the people were saved, to inform them that we were ready to give them every assistance in our power, of whatever nation they might be ; and if they could not understand their language, to return to us as soon as possible, that we might take steps accordingly. With this charge they went off. We saw them well out from the hill ; and on the third day in the morning they re-

turned; and Owen gave us the following account of his voyage.

It was a large vessel of three masts; but the mainmast was gone down low, as he said; she lay a great way out on a sunken reef; and was very much down in the water, quite in the sand; that there was nothing to be found except part of the old sails, and an oar, which was stuck upright on the shore right abreast of her, with a bottle made fast to it, which they had brought with them. Not a creature was to be seen dead or alive, only a great smoke at a distance along shore, more to the northward.

I ordered the bottle to be brought. When it came, Bell undertook to examine the contents. Having taken out the stopper with some difficulty, he found within it a small note to this effect, in Spanish: "The Polacre Isabella shipwrecked on this coast, Aug. 29. anno 1769, Andreas

“ Lopez captain ; nine drowned ; and
“ seven, including the captain, left this
“ coast in their boat, on the 31st, for the
“ north.” So that she was lost in that
dismal night of which I have lately given
an account. Whether she had fired guns
or not we could not tell; the wind was so
strong, and the distance so great from
our place, that we could not have heard
them.

In a short time after this, Bell, Owen,
and Rory, paid a fresh visit to her, and
brought home with them all the sailcloth
that was left ; and it came in good time, as
we wanted sails for our boats very much ;
but we little wished for a supply at the
expence of the lives of our fellow creatures.
They likewise brought home some of her
loose rigging, which was of good use to us.
Bell said she appeared to have been a good
stout vessel, almost new, as he believed
from her blocks and other articles, and of

about two hundred tons. A saint was painted on her stern, in a white dress.

Nothing of any moment happened from this time for about five months, when the Indians came on a visit, or rather it may be considered as a deputation of inquiry, to know how matters went on with us. We were somewhat surprised at their being able to find us out, as they were all four strangers, and had never been here before. But Rory told us they travelled by the trees and the sun, and by sleeps, as he said. Harry remembered two of them, and said their names were Atoney and Manabo. I begged to know the reason why they had neglected us so long. They said their old men did not think it proper to send so soon after the great sickness, lest it might break out again among us; and they were bid to tell us, now we were grown men in our place, and had all we wanted, we could better live without them than on our first

settlement upon the coast. I desired Harry to inform them that it was my wish that they would always consider Mr Bell and myself as their very sincere friends; and that we held them in equal respect with those who had been here before. They said, they had been informed that it was my custom to mark down the names of all my good friends on stones, but that I had not done so for them. Upon this, Harry brought four stones and gave them to me; he then told me the name of each Indian, one by one, as first Atoney, then Manabo, Rabailo, and Pannee. Having inscribed them all, they were placed among the rest, and the Indians were mightily pleased with the ceremony. They remained with us a whole week, and in a very friendly manner invited Harry and Owen to go home with them. Owen declined, saying, he had been there once, and had much rather go to Jamaica if an opportunity should offer. This

very luckily he spoke in English, which they could not understand, or they might have been offended ; however we parted in a very amicable manner. When they were gone, I was resolved to have a serious conversation with Owen, for I saw plainly, by his wish to visit Jamaica, that his mind was still seriously impressed with the same idea. It was my intention first to talk over the subject with Bell, as he knew well enough that, as we were situated, to obtain him a white woman for a wife was almost impossible ; and even if possible, not to be desired, as the very means would put our whole colony in danger ; nor would the Spaniards admit of such a connection without obliging him to change his religion, which would give me great uneasiness.

Some time after, as Bell and I were abroad in the woods together, he observed to me that I did not seem so cheerful as usual. I confessed to him that Owen's

conduct of late had made me very unhappy ; he well knew that what he wished for, it was not in my power to obtain for him.

“ Trouble yourself no more on this subject,” said Bell ; “ leave the whole with me ; I will take a course with him that will succeed I warrant you.”

I told him he could not do me a greater act of kindness, and I hoped we would prosper in the undertaking ; that I was too proud to let Owen see how much concern it gave me, yet I loved him very tenderly.

After this, I heard no more of the matter for some months, but I discovered a visible alteration in Owen ; he was more cheerful and sprightly than he had been for some time ; I observed this with pleasure, and one day Bell's wife said, now Owen was come back from Jamaica, she hoped soon to see him married to one of her own sort of women.

“How so?” said I. “Ask my husband,” she replied; “he will tell you all about it.”

I was quite impatient to have a conversation with Bell on the subject, and asked my wife what she knew of the matter; she said, no more than that Mr Bell had quite cured Owen of his desire to have a white-red woman for a wife; and if I would ask Owen, she had no doubt but he would tell me so. However, I rather chose to have it from Bell, and soon found an opportunity as we were out a fishing together. I asked him how the affair between him and Owen went on?

He said, “Swimmingly. He is quite out of conceit with white women. You may remember when he and I went after the flamingos, I had him there alone. I began by telling him what I had heard from Harry, that he wished to go to Jamaica to obtain a white-red girl for a wife; but that he was mistaken in that point;

it would be no such easy thing for him to succeed if he was there."

"How so?" he said.

"I told him the women there were all white, yellow, or as black as old Quammino; that it was in England only, whence we came, that those charming white-red girls lived. Besides, if he could really obtain his wish by marrying a white woman in Jamaica, he would put his and his wife's life in great danger; that white women there did not marry black men, and if they did, perhaps would be poisoned by their own sex for disgracing them, and most likely he would be poisoned too as the occasion of it.

"He hung his head, and seemed very thoughtful on hearing this. After some silence, he said, "Perhaps it may be right as you say, to look out for one of my own colour, since white-red women would not like me, and I would not go to Jamaica for

a wife, where it would be a disgrace to marry one of my colour."

"I said I was glad to hear him speak so reasonably."

"I know," he continued, "that many of my own colour would have me, for the love they bear to my dear father and mother; and I shall try to love one of them, and make myself as happy as I can. So I need not go on the great water to look for a wife, to get poisoned for her."

"Here our conversation ended, and I find by Harry's account, that he no longer thinks of white or white-red women to chuse a wife from."

This made me quite easy; and I thanked Bell for his kindness, in relieving me from this anxiety.

About this time we had a shock of an earthquake, which lasted full half a minute. It happened about midnight, and was attended with a noise like that of a cart

shooting out rubbish. My wife complained of a sickness in her stomach occasioned by it; and what was very remarkable, all the ducks, geese, and fowls, began to make a great noise in their different ways; but on a fresh shock of greater violence, they all became silent. At this time Bell and Owen came to know how we were. I got up and asked them what they had observed. They said they believed the old cedar tree was thrown down by the earthquake; and on visiting the spot, we found it to be so. It had fallen directly across our path up the hill, and had broken another which stood opposite, of a less size. This kept us awake for the rest of the night. In the morning we began to cut away the branches, and clear the road up the hill. While the young ones were at this work, Bell and I went on the look-out. We were quite astonished at the prodigious swarms of butterflies of a new sort that were to be seen

in every part of the woods. They were not large, and of a pale red colour, and disappeared in less than a week, so that not one was to be seen. Our Indians said that such numbers of butterflies were sure indications of great approaching heat. It was now the month of March.

As Bell and I were sitting together one day, talking over the various events of our lives, and the chances which had brought us together in this remote part of the world, separated from our friends and companions, and far removed from the pursuits of business or pleasure, which occupy the rest of mankind, our boys came down out of breath from the hill, and told us that all the sea was full of great fish fighting and contending with each other. This soon excited the curiosity of the whole family, and we all mounted the hill together. When we arrived at the top, we found it as the boys had reported; a great number

of grampuses were sporting and throwing up water to a great height.

While we were viewing this scene, Bell said, "Suppose we were to go out and try to catch one of them, it would yield us a large quantity of oil for burning."

I laughed at the proposal, and asked him how he would proceed to put it in execution? He said they had brought sufficient from the polacre wreck to serve for line, and we were before furnished with a good harpoon; then addressing himself to Harry, asked him if he would venture with him?

Harry said, "Yes, if I had no objection."

Owen joined in the request. So finding them bent on this sport, I made but one condition, in which I was very peremptory, and this was respecting Owen, that I would not on any account permit him to go; he must absolutely remain at home with me;

but Rory might accompany them. Owen was a little disappointed at this ; but as he was of a very sweet and gentle disposition, he soon yielded to my request, and became satisfied with my determination.

To work they all went, and soon got every thing ready for the expedition, so that in an hour or two they were off. I must confess I thought this a dangerous enterprize ; but as I knew Bell to be steady as well as bold, and that he seldom found himself in any danger, without an expedient to extricate himself, and seeing the boys in high spirits, though entirely submissive to his controul, I could not deny them what they had so much set their hearts upon. Little did I foresee the consequences of this hazardous undertaking. A little more reflection might have prevented the whole ; but man is a short-sighted animal. Bell was older than myself, and I gave way to his judgment.

Owen could not see them go off without being a little dejected, and he retired to his hut. I kept a constant look out after them, and saw the boat in a short time beyond the bay, and in full pursuit of the fish. Evening now came on; but I kept my station, till I could not longer discern them; then came down, concluding that they had given them chase round the Long Key to the southward. When night closed in, I gave orders that no one should retire to rest, but make up a large fire, and wait their return. Owen said I need not fear, they would be back in the morning.

“Well then,” I replied, “get my pipe; I will sit here till sleep sends me to bed, and I am by no means disposed that way at present.”

I sat thus musing and smoking till daylight, and then mounted the hill with Owen in anxious expectation of seeing the canoe; but nothing was to be seen, nor was there

a fish left on the coast. I knew not what to think ; my fears increased sadly. That something extraordinary had happened I was thoroughly persuaded. I returned to my habitation dejected and melancholy, almost without knowing that I was going thither. About nine o'clock Job came running down the hill, and said he could see two people with the glass. Owen and I mounted immediately to the look-out; and turning my eyes towards the Long Key, I saw the two persons plain enough, but no appearance of the canoe. We waited with impatience to see them put off; but after watching them for two hours, to our very great surprise we saw them sit down as if quite unconcerned, and discovering no intention of returning. While I was speaking to Owen, Job called out to me to look; to my utter astonishment I saw the two persons enter the water in order to swim to the opposite shore. I immediately told

Owen to get ready the other canoe ; and we set off together with all expedition, leaving our family in terror and in tears. We paddled away as fast as our strength enabled us, and in about two hours landed opposite the place they swam for. Here we waited, with an anxiety not to be described, for their landing.

I seated myself on the beach, and in a melancholy mood looked on them as they drew near to the shore. To say what my poor heart suffered at this time is beyond my power. I sent Owen down to meet them ; my mind was so affected I could not go myself ; something terrible had happened, and I dreaded to know what. They soon joined me, and in accents of unfeigned grief related their dismal story, while I sat looking on the earth with my head on my knees, and my arms clasped round my legs in silent sorrow. Poor Owen sat beside me with his left arm affectionately thrown

upon my shoulder, his right hand pressing upon his knee, which was in continual motion, from the agitation of his mind; his eyes, which were bent towards me, were filled with tears. Poor fellow! he wished to alleviate my sorrow by sharing it.

They said, when they got out about half a mile from Long Key, they saw a large fish tumbling about quite near them; Harry took the dart in order to strike him, but Mr Bell insisted that the dart and staff should be given up to him, which Harry complied with, knowing it to be my will that he should be obeyed in every thing. Mr Bell then advanced forward and sent the dart right into the fish near the tail. The moment it was struck it shot away to the southward with great speed, and they were obliged to heave out all the rope they had with a large piece of wood fastened to the end of it. They said, they never saw Mr Bell in such high spirits. They fol-

lowed the fish to about a mile's distance, when they saw him rise again; and coming up to the log of wood, they hauled in several fathoms of line, intending to cut it off lest the fish should carry it all away with him out of their reach. While they were doing this, Mr Bell said to Harry, we will get as much of it as we can while he is so still. He had scarcely spoken the words when the fish gave a sudden turn, and with one stroke of his tail struck athwart the canoe with such a violent sweep, that they were at once beat into the sea. Harry said, that for his part it was some time before he could draw his breath, so as to have power to look round him. He soon discovered Rory's head at about a boat's length from him, but could no where see any thing of Mr Bell; and as they knew he could swim well, they concluded that the fish must have killed him with his tail, when the canoe was split with the same

stroke from one end to the other, and they were obliged to swim back again to the Key.

I desired them to say no more, I had heard quite enough; and then added, "when you have rested take me home; what I have been now told will last me for many months."

Soon after this we put away for home, in perfect silence, not a soul speaking a word till we got to our landing place. We were then surrounded by our whole family. I desired Harry and Owen to state what had happened, but begged that no one might trouble me for the present. This occasioned a gush of sorrow from the whole company. I walked to my cave in deep distress, with my arms folded, and threw myself upon my bed of leaves, in an agony of mind not to be described.

My wife soon came to me, weeping, and finding me unwilling to speak, she said,

“ Why you be mad sorry Penoly ? You no break canoe ; great fish break canoe. You no leave me and the children like poor Bell, to kill great fish. You know you can't kill great fish ; you no let Owen go to kill great fish. I did love Bell, for Bell very good ; but why he be foolish mad to leave his wife to go catch great fish that be too strong for all men. You no do so ; you love your wife and children too much for that. Come then, get up and eat fish with me, and we will all love you as long as we have days.”

“ I know well enough,” said I to her, “ that poor Bell was much esteemed by you all ; I loved him as a brother. Nature will have her way. When I can subdue my grief a little I will come and eat fish with thee ; but till then do not let me be interrupted ; keep every one away from me. My thoughts must be more composed ; silence and reflection will assist me to com-

pose them, and then I shall be myself again. Go to Janet, (said I) and be very kind to her."

Upon this she left me to my meditations. I now began to ruminate on past events and present circumstances. Why, thought I to myself, should I murmur at the infliction of Almighty wisdom? The great director of all human events has ordered every thing for the best. The methods of his providence are beyond our comprehension; and so short-sighted are we, that what we lament as calamity, he uses as the means of conducting us to happiness. He has been pleased, by a variety of sufferings, to correct my wandering thoughts, and to lead me to the proper knowledge of my own insufficiency, and his infinite mercy. The experience of my past life has taught me, in a variety of instances, the weakness and fallibility of human judgment, when opposed to divine wisdom; and how in-

capable we are of forming a just estimate of the happiness we are in pursuit of, and how liable to err in the means we adopt to obtain it. It is true my friend has been suddenly removed from me, before I had reflected in my own mind that such an event was ever to happen; and yet in the order of nature it could not be otherwise, though the precise time, in compassion to our weakness and infirmities, was hid from our sight. Ought I not rather to thank my God that he was lent to me so long, to comfort and assist me, and to cheer my lonely hours in this solitary region? I loved him as my friend. He returned my affection with sincere, unreserved, and zealous attachment. He is called away as my dear companion Somer was before. I am left behind to lament their loss, and perhaps to endure still greater sufferings; but why they have been taken, and I am preserved, I am not permitted to inquire. It

is my duty to submit. I bow my head in perfect resignation to thy divine will, oh my God ! Lead me as thou wilt, I will not complain. Make me, if it shall please thee, an instrument of happiness to others, during the short time I have to remain in this wilderness of sorrow. When I am to depart support me in the last struggles of expiring nature. When released from this earthly body, wash me clean in the blood of thy son, that through his merits I may obtain, what my own infirmities could not presume to expect, admission into thy heavenly kingdom.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

It is now several months since my very sincere friend died. I have not had spirits to put my pen to paper till this time, being the month of May, in my twenty-fifth year. Perhaps I have indulged my melancholy to a criminal excess. But he was very dear to me; and thus remote from the civilized world, the separation was doubly painful. I felt as if a part of myself was torn away—a part that was necessary to my well-being, and without which my existence would be imperfect, and

without enjoyment. Since this fatal event, our lives have passed in the same melancholy round, day after day. Nothing of importance worth recording has occurred, except the determination of poor Bell's wife never to accept of another husband, however solicited by me or by her friends. This resolution my wife informs me she is sure she never will depart from.

My son Owen has been gone with Harry on a visit to our Indian neighbours above two months. The purpose of his journey was to obtain a wife, his passion for European women having subsided for a considerable time. I am therefore, at the moment I am now writing, almost as forlorn as I was twenty years ago, as to my own colour. I must not forget to mention that Rory the other day found a young fawn in the back woods, which he led home. The sight of it brought to my remembrance the melancholy fate of my faithful companion

Miss Doe. He gave it to my wife, and she insists on rearing it; though I am not much for it; as those animals soon make themselves favourites, we get ourselves attached to them too fondly, and if by any accident they are lost or destroyed, we mourn for them almost as we would for a child. From tigers indeed, I believe, we have little to fear, as we have not seen any for years, though the woods are grown almost as ample as ever; but perhaps the constant fires we keep, and the continual chopping we make in all parts of them, may have driven these animals from this quarter. We are well pleased with their absence, as our stock of goats is very much increased.

CHAP. XXXIX.

TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR.....AUGUST 20.

My son has been returned about a month, and has brought with him a young Indian girl, by name Bashada; she is grand-daughter to old Kamaloot, and not above fifteen years of age, yet she measures at least five feet four inches; she seems to be very agreeable both in temper and person, so that I am altogether pleased with his choice, and hope she will make a very cheerful addition to our little society. I have been sadly troubled lately with most violent pains in my limbs, so that I am

often in such an agony that I can get no sleep. I can scarcely hold a pen or any light thing in my hand, I have such a universal tremor; yet I can strike fish and do other laborious work as easily as heretofore. I very much fear I shall soon be incapable of writing at all, unless my disease should abate, which I little expect from the nature of it, it being the consequence of fish poison; in this I am strongly confirmed, as no one tasted of it but my daughter America, and she has exactly the same symptoms, but being young is less affected by them, and may soon out-grow them altogether. For my part I must prepare for the worst, as I am in continual pain. If my disorder increases, my days cannot be many more in this world.

October 30.—It is impossible for me to carry on my poor account much farther, having almost entirely lost the use of my right hand, and the other is but very in-

different ; so that what is to be added to my Journal after this day, will be done by my son, as I shall direct him, or my brother Harry, as they both write tolerably well. I likewise find that at times my memory is much impaired, yet my daughter America is getting better every day, and seems to have but few symptoms of the poison left about her. How often have I feasted on red snappers before, without danger ! But so it is, death has his agents everywhere, by sea and by land ; when the grand summons comes we must be gone ; he will take no excuse. But let me be content ; let me with patient silence bear my pain. I will not murmur at thy decree, oh, my God ! I know this life is but a passage to a better ; do thou smooth the way before me, and support me to the end.

THE JOURNAL CONTINUED BY OWEN.

My dear father has been so bad in all his joints for more than six months, that we have been forced to feed him like a child; he is now getting somewhat better, and his pains grow less in consequence of the assistance of some of our good friends who have been here of late. They know many kinds of roots that are useful in disorders, particularly in expelling poison. But my poor father has lost much of the feeling in his limbs, and cannot at all times speak plain enough for us to understand him; he muffles so in his speech.

CHAP. XL.

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR.—JULY 21.

I HAD a son born, and we carried him into the cave to my father and mother. My father would have the child in his lap, and asked me what name we intended to give it. I desired he would call it what he liked best, but it was my wish it should be named Llewellyn, if he pleased. "Call him so, my son," said he, "I hope he will be more fortunate in his passage through this vale of tears than his grandfather. I give him my blessing freely, which is all I have to bestow."

About the middle of September, as my uncle and I were out in the bay fishing, two ships hove in sight, in the east quarter; but as my father had now no longer any curiosity or care for such things, we let them pass to the southward, without stirring from our business, or giving ourselves any concern about them. When we came home we told him what we had seen. "I don't think, Owen," said he, "I shall ever see another sail with my eyes, unless I may be carried up the hill by some of you, should another appear before I die. And indeed, my dear son, I cannot think the day of my death very far off, if there be any truth in dreams. I dreamed last night that I was become a very ancient man, and that I lived alone at the old plantation. As I was walking along the strand by the Whale Point, methought I saw two men going on before me; at last they stopped, as if they waited till I came

up, which I did soon; and to my great surprise, found them to be my old companions Somer and Bell. They seemed overjoyed at my joining them, and said there was a ship waiting for them at Boom Bay, bound for Europe; and that if she did not sail that day, they would make interest with the captain to give me my passage. On saying which, they vanished from me in an instant, and I was left alone. The anxiety of my mind awakened me."

My father continued getting worse and worse; and about three weeks after, young Somer came to me one morning early, and said my father wanted to see me immediately. I ran directly to him, and found my uncle Harry and most of the family there before me, which grieved me for fear he should think I neglected him by not coming sooner. He turned his eyes on me, and said, "Owen come by my side;"

which I did, and sat down by him on the right. He then called my uncle Harry, who seated himself on his left side.

“ Now,” said he, “ give me your hands, “ I have a few words to say to you both.” With a tone of great tenderness, he added, “ Remember what I now deliver to you ; “ love that woman,” pointing to his wife, who was on her knees at his feet, “ she deserves all your affection ; be tender, be “ kind to her in her affliction. Love my “ children, protect and cherish them, and “ one another, living in perfect harmony “ together. Owen you are now a father ; “ Harry has been so for some time ; instruct your children in their duty to God, “ to their parents, and to the society to “ which they belong ; teach them to be “ useful, in order to render themselves acceptable to their Maker, after the example of him who went about doing

“ good. I am about to leave you my
“ children ; I shall never see another sun
“ rise upon this world. Respect my me-
“ mory. Lay me in the grave by your
“ mother Luta. Preserve my Journal, and
“ with care put it into the hands of the
“ first European, or white man, that
“ shall arrive on this coast ; pay him
“ handsomely, and beg him to deliver it
“ safe to some of my countrymen. Tell
“ my good Indian friends, that in my last
“ moments I spoke of them with grati-
“ tude and tenderness. I trust they will
“ continue their benevolent intentions
“ towards you after I am gone. My
“ sight begins to grow dim. Lead your
“ mother to me that I may embrace
“ her before I die. God bless you my
“ children.”

He now sunk almost exhausted into her arms. We continued for some time silent. We could not suppress our grief, and re-

tired from his presence. About sunset my mother sent for me in, and said, she believed my father was gone to England. He had sunk away without a groan. Her hand was fast locked in his at the moment of his death, and continued so for some time after. The whole family were summoned together; and such a scene of extravagant sorrow as took place is not to be described. My uncle Harry tore his hair, and beat his breast, and was altogether like a person out of his senses. The women were equally violent. I could have lain me down and died too. I did not wish to live. This scene continued during the whole night.

In the morning my uncle Harry came to me, and said, "Come Owen, let us be men, we must put our trouble out of sight. My brother as you may remember said, 'Lay me by Luta.' We will comply with his request, and then you shall stand in his

place amongst us ; but we will let your mother direct as she pleases. He charged us to love her before he died, and whatever he wished us to do, that will we most willingly perform."

The next day, our hearts still throbbing with grief, I told my uncle that we would do whatever he wished. He had lived longest with my father, and knew best what would please him. He said he would do every thing in his power for the good of all. He instructed Rory how to make the grave ; and the body of my father was wrapped up in some old cloth, which remained in our store. He and Rory carried it to the grave. My mother and I walked close behind, and the rest followed. When we got there, the corpse was laid gently in the ground by my mother Luta, and Harry said he would do as exactly as he had seen my father when poor Somer was

buried, and that all must say after him. He began with the Belief, and some other short sentences, and then ended with the Lord's Prayer, which we all repeated together. Thus ended this melancholy ceremony.

My uncle advised with me, and we now judged it necessary to acquaint our countrymen with my father's death, and we thought Rory a proper person to convey this mournful intelligence. We therefore sent him over land, and he took his leave of us about a week after for this purpose.

About three months after came two canoes with our Indian friends to visit us. We entertained them as usual in my father's time. They desired to know whether we intended to break up and return with them, or remain where we were. We had made up our minds to continue

in our old habitation, and to live after the same manner as before my father's death, and to comply with his wishes in every thing. We told them our resolution, and they were satisfied.

CHAP. XLI.

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

WE had not seen one sail for a long time ; but about August, as Job was on the hill, he discovered a fleet of about twenty vessels all standing to the southward. I got the glass, but they were so far out that I could not make much of them, and we lost sight of them towards the evening.

[Here the Journal breaks off abruptly.]

The following Letter gives some account how and by what means this Journal was conveyed to Europe. The address is unfortunately wanting.

MR PAUL TAYLOR'S ACCOUNT OF THE
JOURNAL.

“ BEING mate of a large brig, command-
“ ed by one Captain Smith, and lying at the
“ Havannah, anno 1776, it happened that
“ at the same time a Spanish sloop, late
“ from the Main, lay near to us. Having
“ some knowledge of the Spanish tongue,
“ I became acquainted with the mate.
“ He asked me one day to come on
“ board and spend an hour or two with
“ him, as he had something to shew me.

“ The next day being Sunday, and no-
“ body on board but himself and an old
“ negro, I accepted his invitation. We
“ had not been long together before he
“ unlocked a cedar chest, and took out a
“ bundle of old papers; he desired me
“ to look at them, saying they were
“ English. I asked him by what means
“ they came into his hands; he said they
“ were given to him by two Indians who
“ spoke good English; and that one of
“ them told him in Spanish, that the
“ whole was written by his father, with
“ a small addition by himself: That his
“ father had lived there for many years, and
“ had died there; making it his last request,
“ that these papers should be put into
“ the hands of the first person who would
“ promise to deliver them to some trusty
“ and good Englishman, to be by him
“ conveyed to his native country. ‘ They

“ made me swear,” said he, “ that I would
“ execute this commission justly and truly,
“ and then gave me fifty pieces of eight,
“ as a reward for undertaking it.

“ ‘ Having taken in what water we
“ wanted, we left the coast. You,’ said
“ he, ‘ are the first Englishman I have
“ met with ; if you will take charge of
“ them, I am ready to deliver them into
“ your hands ; if not, I will seek out
“ some other ; and should I not succeed,
“ will leave them with the governor.’ I
“ told him he might depend upon my
“ care and attention to observe the di-
“ rections of my countryman in every
“ respect. Upon which he delivered me
“ the Journal. I offered him the ac-
“ knowledgment of a doubloon ; but he
“ refused it, saying he should think him-
“ self a dishonest man to accept of any
“ thing from me ; he had been well paid

“ for his trouble, and was happy in having
“ this opportunity of executing his pro-
“ mise to the two Indians who delivered
“ the Journal to him.

“ I have carefully preserved it through
“ many dangers. You will find when
“ you come to read it many curious
“ accounts of things, of the truth of
“ which I have no doubt, though I did
“ not know the man. During the time
“ I was out of employ at Charlestown,
“ I got it fairly copied out, and now
“ send it to you, as some little return of
“ kindness for the many friendly services
“ you have shewn me. I doubt not but
“ you will think it worthy of being laid
“ before the public.”

“ N. B. You may remember John
“ Waters, who formerly sailed with Cap-
“ tain Dean; he it was I employed to

“ copy it all out just as the author wrote
 “ it, and without the slightest alteration
 “ whatever; and he has really performed
 “ his part with great care and diligence.

“ Believe me,

“ Your very sincere friend,

“ PAUL TAYLOR.”

NEW-YORK, }
 May 2. 1783. }



"copy to all copies of the author wrote
 it, and without the slightest alteration
 or abatement; and he has really performed
 a part with great care and diligence."

"I am very sincerely yours,
 Wm. L. Garrison."

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 Wm. L. Garrison."

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Williams, William

The journal of Llewellyn Penrose, a seaman in four volumes

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